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AND
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DEATHS.

On the 21st January, 1901, at Bremen, the wife of GUSTAV AD. MELCHERS, of a son.

On the 22nd January, 1901, at 4A, Markham Road, Shanghai, the wife of H. W. DALDT, of a son.

On the 26th January, 1901, at No. 1, Astor Road, Shanghai, the wife of MAX NICLASSEN, of Tientsin, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On the 27th January, at St. Peter's Church, by the Rev. G. France, JOHN RATTENBURY to FLORENCE ANNIE THERESA WATTON, eldest daughter of the late J. R. WHITE, of Hongkong.

THE

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVAL OF MAIIS.

The American mail of the 29th December arrived, per T. K. K. steamer *America Maru*, on the 26th January (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Her late Majesty's funeral takes place to-day in England at 1 p.m.

To-day is to be observed as a day of public mourning in the Colony, and all public offices (with the exception of the Police Magistrate's department) will be closed. The Memorial Service takes place at St. John's Cathedral at 11.30 a.m.

Our Shanghai correspondent on the 28th ult. telegraphed that Li Hung-chang was seriously ill and was indeed delirious. H.E. Sheng, however, denies that Li is ill at all.

According to native official telegrams received in Shanghai on the 28th ult., Prince Chuan and Yu Hsien were beheaded by order of the Chinese Government on the previous day.

It is announced that Prince Ching is arranging on behalf of China to send a special envoy to condole with King Edward on the death of the late Queen and to felicitate him on his accession to the throne.

Count von Waldersee has transmitted to the Ministers of the Powers a plan for the evacuation of Peking, and possibly of Paotungfu, conditional on the punishment by China of the guilty officials and an agreement to pay the war indemnities.

The Naval Department of the Japanese Government has decided to construct more torpedo-boat destroyers with the money set apart for one torpedo tender, as four or five effective destroyers can be built for the same amount of money.

Mr. Conger, U.S. Minister at Peking, telegraphed to Washington this week that no practical progress is being made with the peace negotiations between China and the Powers. The report, however, from native sources that there had been an actual rupture in negotiations is denied.

By command of H.I.M. the German Emperor the German man-of-war in Hongkong Harbour, as well as those at all other British ports, neither fired salutes nor dressed ship on Sunday, the 27th ult., the forty-second anniversary of the Emperor's birth, as a token of respect for the late Queen Victoria.

The following items are from the *Peking and Tientsin Times* of the 12th ult.:—It is repeated that H.E. Sheng has been ordered to Peking.—The cold at Tientsin has been intense.—Mr. Komura, the new Japanese Minister at Peking, Chargé d'Affaires there at the time of the China-Japan war, has gone on to the capital, and Baron Nishi has left for Japan.—The English expeditionary force has returned from Yangtsun in excellent condition.—Mr. Lo Tso-seng, compradore of the Russo-Chinese Bank, died on the 10th.—The Hospital Ball was expected to net \$1,000.

In the course of some remarks attributed by the *Chiao Shimbun* to Mr. Kato, Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kato denounces the total infeasibility of attempting to raise the problems of Kinochow and Port Arthur at the present stage. He says that the time is past for such protest. Japan had an unquestionable right to object when the occupations were actually made by Germany and Russia, but she suffered her opportunity to pass, and if she formulated an objection now, she would have to be prepared either to take up arms for its practical assertion or to see it quietly ignored.

M. Jennitschka, the Austrian Consul at Yokohama, has been transferred to Bombay to take charge of the Consulate-General there. It is reported that he will be succeeded by Mr. Max Kutschera, who has up till now been Consul for Austria-Hungary here.

News has been received from Changsha, the capital of Hunan province, according to the *N.C. Daily News*, to the effect that several tribes of the Miaotze aborigines inhabiting the mountainous regions dividing the two provinces of Hunan and Kweichau have set up the standard of insurrection against the mandarins and have defeated the Imperial troops sent against them with great slaughter thrice in succession. The consequence has been that an appeal for aid has now been sent to Changsha and a demand for at least 5,000 troops has been made upon Governor Yu Lien-san of Hunan province, failing which the military posts in the Miaotze territory will have to be abandoned.

A number of secret memorials, says the *Universal Gazette*, have recently been presented to the Empress-Dowager by Conservative officials in the refugee Court. Some of the memorialists suggested that the peace negotiations, now going on at Peking, should be discontinued; others proposed that the country should be divided into two portions—a north-western and a south-eastern—to be defended separately; while some recommended that those high officials who had been degraded for their complicity with the Boxer troubles, and whose heads were demanded by the Allied Powers, should be raised to power once more. Finally some have advised that a large supply of arms and ammunition must be manufactured at once to prepare for a resumption of hostilities. These memorials, it is said, the Empress-Dowager has already sent to the Viceroys and Governors of various different provinces for discussion.

Discussing the limits of Field-Marshal Count von Waldersee's responsibility in North China, the *Japan Mail* says:—There can be no doubt that the Marshal is absolutely and solely responsible for all military operations. The idea that in such matters he is governed by mandates from the Powers conveyed through their Representatives in Peking, is based on ignorance of official routine. The Field-Marshal's competence is untrammelled so far as concerns any operations that he may consider necessary for preserving peace and order in the province of Chihli and for quelling the Boxers. If he considers that a certain expedition or a certain series of expeditions must be undertaken, no European Government would think of interfering so long as the field of operations was confined to Chihli, which is the Marshal's district. Whether needless expeditions have been undertaken, leading to the wanton sacrifice of lives and the ruthless destruction of property, is a question we have no right to attempt to answer one way or the other with our present limited knowledge. The Field-Marshal had means of judging which are hidden from us, and was certainly far more competent to judge than any outsider can be. What we have always regretted is that the burning of villages entered into the programme of these punitive expeditions. It seems inevitable that the burning of a whole village must inflict suffering on many innocent people, to say nothing of the obvious objection that the unfortunate villagers have no choice but admitting the Boxers for harbouring whom they are subsequently subjected to such harsh punishment by the foreign troops.

THE PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS.

(*Daily Press*, 28th January.)

After nine days' complete silence, caused by the total interruption of cable communication with Shanghai, we have at last intelligence about the progress of affairs in North China, and it is satisfactory that what news we now have promises well for real progress on the road to settlement of the most dangerous crisis which has occurred in the later history of China. The report from Hsianfu seems to indicate an improvement on the position of a few days back, for in the latest copy to hand of the *North China Daily News* intrigues of a serious nature are reported to be existent at the temporary capital, the principal of which were those between the notorious and bigoted LU CH'UAN-LIN, Grand Councillor and former Governor of Kiangsu, and TSEN CH'UN-HSUN, present Governor of Shensi, both of whom were trying to get the supreme power while the Court remains in Hsianfu. At present, our contemporary then stated, TSEN holds greater influence with the Empress Dowager and also possesses the military power of the province as its Governor, which LU CH'UAN-LIN, on the other hand, does not hold, and without which he finds himself unable to do anything against his rival for power. Governor TSEN, we may conjecture, is advocating the return of the Imperial Court to Peking, preparations for which he is making. The *Daily News* learns that LU CH'UAN-LIN telegraphed to FENG TZETS'AI, a celebrated Cantonese General who is now Provincial Commander-in-chief of Kweichau, to lead an army of some 15,000 men of all arms to go up to Hsian with all haste and there await the orders of the Grand Council, but there is said to be little likelihood of General FENG marching north-west. The Hsianfu despatch mentioned by our Shanghai correspondent gives the end of February as the date of the Court's return to Peking, from which it seems that the straits of the Imperial family and suit cannot be so bad as have been imagined. In all probability the supplies from the Yangtsze region and South China have been greater than we knew of. With regard to the statement that the Empress-Dowager is awakening to activity, it is difficult to know in what spirit to receive this. If the Empress is only rousing herself from the torpor into which she sank early last year, when Prince TUAN's influence first made itself known, in order to side with those blind advisers who would listen to the schemes of the wildest anti-foreign fanatics, she will be adding one more injury to the long list of wounds which she has inflicted on the Chinese people. If on the other hand she is chastened by the sufferings which the Imperial family, herself included, have gone through since the flight from Peking, and is weary of the long stay, little better than forced detention, at Hsianfu, she has a chance of performing at least one good act, by using what influence she has in favour of the more provident party at court and pressing for a departure from Shensi. It is rather an ominous sign that the Emperor is stated to be ill, for in the past such reports have usually preceded some fresh folly on the part of the nominal government of China. It can, however, hardly be a matter for wonder if His Majesty KWANG Hsu is actually in a bad state of health, for he is known always to have been of weak constitution, and his environment for the last year, indeed ever since the fatal *coup d'état*, has been one calculated to act disastrously on a stronger

man than he is. A speedy return to Peking and a release from a long captivity are wanted to give him a chance of recovery, and all patriotic Chinese must recognise this and join therefore in urging the move from Hsianfu.

The remainder of the news from the North indicates the gradual spread of peace. Shantung is about to witness foreign activity on a larger scale than before. The German railway and mining engineers are preparing for a campaign of a very different nature from that carried on under the leadership of Count von WALDESEE in the neighbouring province of Chihli. With the re-awakening of commerce, missionary enterprise will probably be resumed at once. YUAN SHIKAI, Governor of Shantung, has invited the missionaries to return to their stations in his province, and promises full protection alike to them and to their native converts. There can be no doubt that they will accept the invitation to take up their work again. We venture to express the hope that in so doing they will not altogether forget the lessons of the past, and that the controlling bodies of the various organisations who devote themselves to Christianising the Chinese will see the advisability of confining the women (and still more, of course, children) connected with their work strictly to the coast ports. It is not because of any actual danger likely to befall them in Shantung that we hope for this; but the whole system of sending helpless women and children into the interior has been amply demonstrated by the events of last year to be foolish—nay, rather, criminal. Waiving for the present all question of the shock to Chinese conventions by the difference of Western customs where the weaker sex is concerned, there must always be an element of risk in taking women and children beyond all reach of Western civilisation. If Governor YUAN SHIKAI's invitation be accepted, a start will be made in a new attempt to convert China. The missionary bodies will show themselves unfit for their task if they continue to neglect all precautions, as they have done in the past.

THE ALLEGED RUSSO-CHINESE SECRET TREATY.

(*Daily Press*, 29th January.)

The Japanese Press, both vernacular and English, makes much of the reported Russo-Chinese secret treaty concerning Southern Manchuria, the text of which Dr. MORRISON telegraphed to the *Times*, as we learnt from our London correspondent, at the commencement of the year. It was then said that the agreement amounted to the formal establishment of a Russian protectorate over Moukden and Fengtien province. Our Yokohama contemporary, the *Japan Mail*, learns "from a trustworthy source" that the gist of the agreement is as follows:—

Russia agrees that Chinese officials shall be allowed to resume the functions of civil government at Moukden and in the province of Fengtien, on certain conditions, namely:—

Firstly, that General Tseng undertakes to take such measures as may be necessary for the pacification of the districts in question, and also that he engages to render assistance to Russia in the work of constructing the railway.

Secondly, that General Tseng will accord friendly treatment to all Russians connected with the military occupation of the districts in question, and that he shall provide them with places to lodge and with provisions.

Thirdly, that General Tseng engages to disarm and disband all Chinese soldiers in

the above districts; and, further, to hand over to the Russian military authorities such munitions of war as may be in any arsenals of which the Russians have not yet taken possession.

Fourthly, that General Tseng undertakes to dismantle and to destroy, in the presence of Russian officials detailed for the purpose, all fortresses and other military defences in Fengtien which are not already in Russian occupation, and that the same course shall be pursued with regard to such powder-magazines as the Russian authorities may not require.

Fifthly, Russia engages that Newchwang and any other places in Manchuria now occupied by her soldiers shall be restored to Chinese civil administration so soon as the Russian Government is satisfied that peace and good order have been restored in the province.

Sixthly, that for the purpose of maintaining law and order, the Chinese shall employ local police under the command of the Tartar General.

Seventhly, that there shall be stationed at Moukden a Russian Political Resident exercising general powers of control, to whom full information with respect to any measures of importance must be furnished by the Tartar General.

Eighthly, that should the local Chinese police prove insufficient to deal with any emergency that may arise, the Tartar General shall address himself to the Russian Political Resident in Moukden, and shall invite the latter to despatch such reinforcements as may be necessary.

Ninthly, that the Russian text of the agreement shall be regarded as the original.

The *Japan Mail* does not consider it credible that such a convention as the above (the parties to which were stated to be the Tartar General TSENG and M. KOROSTOVITCH, representing Admiral ALEXIEFF, the Russian Commander-in-Chief in Manchuria) should have been concluded, but goes on to remark:—"Rumour says that it has not been acknowledged by the Russian Government. But, whether tentative or final, some arrangement in the above sense seems to have been locally proposed." No doubt if such an "arrangement" has actually been made Russia would still find it possible to harmonise it with Count CASSINI's recent explicit assurances that no treaty has been concluded between Russia and China which alters the former country's declarations that she has no design of returning any part of Manchuria; for the fifth condition above makes a promise for the restoration to Chinese civil administration of all places now occupied by Russian soldiers so soon as the Russian Government is satisfied that peace and good order have been restored in the province. Admitting for the sake of argument that such an arrangement as the alleged convention is officially recognised by Russia and that she honestly intends to carry out the evacuation, as promised, the situation created would be one of constant menace to the peace of the Far East. The total disbandment and removal of Chinese troops and the destruction of magazines and fortresses not temporarily required by Russia would render the Russian withdrawal a matter of difficulty and danger. But from past experience it is impossible to hope that Russia, once established in full military possession of the province, would find it in her heart to recede. Her promises would go the way of many others, and the situation created could only be resolved by recourse to the sword. On

at least of the Japanese native papers affects to see no danger from the arrangement. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* thinks that the alleged agreement is a perfectly natural outcome of the situation, being nothing more than a temporary arrangement for a *modus vivendi*. Without some such arrangement it would not be possible to provide for the civil government of Manchuria, and to regulate the relations between military and administrative officials. None of the other papers take this view, which indeed hardly seems tenable. The others comment as strongly on the supposed arrangement as Dr. MORRISON himself can have done, and he is not wont to spare the Russians. Judging from the telegrams in the Australian papers received this week the English, German, and American Presses are manifesting no little alarm over Russia's conduct in Manchuria, and there has been some talk of a co-operation between the other Powers to preserve the integrity of China—evidently the Anglo-German Agreement is not held sufficient to guarantee this. It will have been seen that the *Cologne Gazette* thinks that Lord SALISBURY is largely responsible for much of Russia's action. We fear that the *Cologne Gazette* is right. But Lord SALISBURY is not alone. He has been ably backed by the British authorities into whose hands the conduct of affairs in North China fell. Possibly the situation is not irretrievable yet; the reported agreement, convention, or arrangement may not exist; the action of Russian officials in Manchuria may not be supported by the St. Petersburg Government. In any case, however, the question of Manchuria is one which requires immediate attention, for neglect can only settle it in one way—and that is by its passing out of the possession of China.

MORE LIGHT ON THE PEKING SIEGE.

(*Daily Press*, 1st February.)

The publication in Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD's reports to Lord SALISBURY respecting events at Peking last summer of various letters exchanged between the Legations, on the one hand, and the Tsungli Yamen and a body of joint correspondents who style themselves "Prince CHING and others," on the other hand, is not the least interesting feature of H. M. Minister's communications. We have already drawn attention, on more than one occasion, to the utterly inconsistent attitude of the representatives of the Chinese Government throughout the period when the Imperial troops were vigorously bombarding the refugees in the Legation quarter of Peking. We do not therefore propose to consider now in detail the letters embodied in Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD's reports. But there is one communication addressed to Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD from Prince CHING and others which deserves special mention. In the Parliamentary Paper in which the reports appear it is Inclosure 28 in No. 3 (p. 48). On the 1st August a letter from Prince CHING and others complained that on the previous night "converts had fired at the posts of the Government troops, killing two men," and asked Sir CLAUDE to "take strict measures of control, to prevent this affair from leading to a quarrel." The British Minister replied on the 2nd August, declaring his surprise at this letter. He pointed out that the Legations were not defended by converts, and denied that any shot had been fired at the Chinese on the night in question. "But," he continued, "from the newly constructed barricade on the North Bridge and from other quarters

"there was directed against the Legations a steady fire during the whole of that day and night, which has continued to the present moment, in spite of the fact that not a shot has been fired in return. Last night over three hundred shots were thus fired without reply. It is possible that some of the shots from one quarter passed over the Legations and struck people on the opposite side." Sir CLAUDE then stated that the foreign representatives found it impossible to understand why fire from the Chinese Government troops, as admitted in Prince CHING's letter, was permitted to continue. The Chinese answer to this note is that to which we wish to call attention. After urging a speedy reply to the request that the refugees should leave Peking under escort, "Prince CHING and others" say: "With regard to the firing during the night, it was, as before, the result of a misunderstanding. Fortunately neither side crossed its frontier. It was more or less on the same footing as the sounding of the evening drum and morning bell—an everyday matter—and is really hardly worth a smile."

"Hardly worth a smile!" Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD's reply to this is perhaps as effective as any other. Writing on the 9th August, he said: "I note that you consider the firing of several hundreds of shots into the Legations, which, as you are aware, are inhabited by women and children, as well as by the foreign representatives and their staffs, as 'hardly worth a smile.' I regret that this is an opinion which I cannot share with you." This statement of the Chinese representatives, however, is in keeping with the general line of dishonest subterfuge and impudent assertion which characterised the conduct of the so-called Government at Peking during the rule of the reactionaries, and only adds one more reason for the impossibility that the Chinese Empire can remain any longer under the control of such people. If it were not that Prince CHING can only have been a mouth-piece at this time, he would plainly have been disqualified from acting as peace negotiator in conjunction with the representatives of the Powers. As it is, his participation in these dishonourable proceedings has modified considerably the favourable opinion on his conduct formed from early and unofficial accounts of the siege of the Legations. The difficulty, however, was to find any other leading man who was not far more deeply involved. In the new government of China, when the Emperor KWANG HSU is restored to power, there should be no room for the tools of the late usurping clique, and unless this is clearly recognised we cannot look forward with any hopes to the future of China.

The report sent by our London correspondent that the Germans had seized and looted the Peking Club has so far remained unexplained, says the *Kobe Chronicle*. A despatch in the American papers, however, now gives the whole story. According to the despatch, before the siege Baron von Ketteler, the German Minister, who was subsequently murdered, asked for the use of one room, in which he desired to lodge soldiers. His request was granted, and in a short time the Germans seized the whole place. Lumber for a complete house was looted to repair the German Legation. Afterwards, though the club-house was not used, Count von Waldersee refused to surrender it and refused to pay for the material looted. The value of the property seized is stated to be 30,000 taels. The matter was referred to the Ministers of all the Powers for settlement. But, if we are not mistaken, news was received before the siege that the Club had been burnt, or partially burnt, by Boxers, which would seem to cast some doubt upon the story.

EDUCATION OF EUROPEAN CHILDREN IN HONGKONG.

(*Daily Press*, 31st January.)

Those who have at heart the interests of education in Hongkong were glad to hear the Right Rev. Bishop of Victoria dwell at some length, at the prize distribution of the Diocesan School on Tuesday, on the subject of the co-education of Europeans and Chinese. It is, as Dr. HOARE says, a very serious blot on this Colony that it provides no school where European children can obtain separate instruction. There are now in Hongkong many schools for Europeans, Chinese, and others together, and some for Chinese alone; but there is not one for Europeans alone. Shanghai, as Dr. HOARE pointed out, has an excellent school for Europeans. So has Singapore; so have Tientsin and Chefoo, to mention no others. Here in a British colony there is no such institution. British and other European parents have a real grievance. Those who do not wish their children to be educated side by side with natives should certainly enjoy the same privilege which their countrymen living in other and smaller ports in the East already have. With the growth of Hongkong and the large increase in the number of European children who spend their schooldays here, the subject is becoming an urgent one and calls for the attention of the Government. Without intending any slight to existing educational institutions, we cannot regard the present facilities for higher instruction as adequate, nor look on the finished products of our schools as reaching as high an average as they might. If the opinions of British and other European parents whose children have been educated in this Colony were to be consulted it would, we feel certain, be found that they are not satisfied with the results of present conditions. But, it may be asked, how is it that in the mixed schools Chinese and Eurasian boys carry off so many prizes? If the European boys are capable of reaching a higher standard, why do they not generally take the leading places in their class? An explanation which we have heard strongly supported is that the English boys at least take little interest in their schools and are anxious only to get through their school-course as soon and with as little effort as possible. The *esprit de corps*, in fact, which is so great an element in the success of a school, does not exist. We should be glad, were it possible, to know what the masters of our leading local schools think on the subject. Obviously, however, there is something wrong. No doubt Queen's College and other educational establishments here have performed some most excellent work and have turned out pupils who would be a credit to any school. But the good work is done mainly among the non-European scholars, and most of all among the Chinese and half-Chinese boys. European education suffers in the meantime, and until the want of a purely European school is supplied the blot on this Colony will remain. Existing institutions may continue to perform their duties as well as they have in the past; but the demand for a school for European children only, including a separate establishment for girls, grows yearly stronger and must ultimately be satisfied.

Straits papers report a mysterious epidemic among rodents in Kuala Lumpur. Rats were dying wholesale there last month—in some shops five to ten have been found dead in a single day. In one shop over a hundred dead rats were found.

THE DECLINE OF THE WAR CORRESPONDENT.

(*Daily Press*, 30th January.)

Not the least interesting episode in the history of the latter half of the nineteenth century, when it comes to be written, will be the Progress and Decline of the War Correspondent. Springing into existence like Minerva in full panoply, the last year of the century has seen his somewhat ignominious disappearance, without a plaudit, or even a word of recognition. Yet the war correspondent has done good and useful work in his day; and though in the end he fell upon evil times, it is doubtful if, with all his faults, he were not more sinned against than sinning. There was, of course, a wide difference in the position of the individuals from the time when W. H. RUSSELL was sent out to the Crimea, as the acknowledged agent of the *Times*, with all the prestige that such a commission could give him, and the latterday correspondent, who too frequently was but a free-lance, picking up what scraps of war gossip he could, and openly selling his gleanings to the highest bidder. The one had everything to gain by working in close touch with the leaders, whose secrets, interest, as well as honour, compelled him to respect; the other was but a waif on the surface, unknown to fame, whose only function was to give such news as he could pick up in any quarter to an insatiable public, who as long as it got the "gup" of the day was perfectly regardless, doubtless in most cases through ignorance, of its effects, and of the possible inevitable injury his premature disclosures were bound to cause. The result, however brought about, is of course to be regretted, and the war correspondent has the right to show that his services have not been unworthy, and that even he has the strongest claims on the gratitude of his fellow countrymen. To the essential change in the position of the individual was of course attributable his extinction. A simple word, of no apparent consequence, is often to a careful and astute enemy capable of affording the most important information. To caution the correspondent is to give him valuable information; and few men in the position of a correspondent paid by results will be chivalrous enough not to make use of a hint thus given. Of course with men such as undertook in the first instance the dangerous task of war correspondent, who were the accredited agents of some powerful organisation, such as the *Times* or the *Daily News*, these confidences could be freely given. When, however, it came to dividing interests, and each correspondent represented not one but many papers, probably representing opposite influences, it became impossible to make in any way a confidant of the correspondent, and deprived of confidence the individual found himself practically reduced to the position of a spy—or at the best a nuisance. The result has been markedly apparent within the last few months. At the beginning of the South African War, without any intention of disclosing any information likely to be useful to the enemy, there did arise some difference of opinion between the correspondents and the General. The Boers proved themselves masters in the arts of intelligence, and quickly made use of every source of information available. The introduction of some system of censorship became a necessity. The correspondent chafed under the restriction, which he imagined was aimed against him, and did his best to escape its requirements, so that by degrees a state almost of hostility arose. The telegraph made mat-

ters worse. Boer sympathisers were not wanting even in England; on the continent Dr. LEYDS had established an almost perfect system of coding, so that any information was at once sent to quarters in communication, more or less secret, with the leaders in the Transvaal; and so by degrees the Press correspondent became from a nuisance a danger. In China, affairs were not so bad, still the Press correspondent did once or twice in a measure give himself away. At all events his presence did not tend to diminish the jealousies between the Powers, and may from indiscreet remarks have even had a tendency momentarily to increase them. When we remember the magnificent services, however, done for humanity in general by correspondents like RUSSELL or SIMPSON, it seems a matter of great and national loss that the present position should have come about. The mystery that has been raised about the hospital staff in South Africa is one of those things that could scarcely have occurred had the correspondent been in a better position. Was there really any evidence of mismanagement? To ascertain this simple fact, it has been found necessary to go through all the formality of a Parliamentary Commission of Enquiry. It is not too much to say that if a correspondent like the late Dr. RUSSELL had been on the spot, we should at all events have been spared the preliminaries of this enquiry. So in China we believe a high-class correspondent could have been of inestimable utility in the beginning. Although the great act of vandalism which marked the attack on the Legations, the burning of the Hanlin Library, is not this time to be laid on the shoulders of the foreigner, there is abundance of common talk to show that the usages of some at least of the foreign battalions engaged in the fight were not as entirely in accordance with civilised precedents as might have been desired. Here was a case where a correspondent, himself above suspicion, could have rendered inestimable service to the general cause. We do not concur in the suppression of all information from the fighting line which has marked the conduct of operations in the North; it is one thing to give information about policy or intentions, it is quite another to record events which have actually occurred, and which of necessity are known to the enemy. The Chinese are perfectly well aware of what our, and the other, troops have done, and it is from a military point of view a matter of perfect indifference that they should be published. Not so, however, from the political side. The unconsidered mystery in which our authorities have veiled these proceedings is already being taken advantage of by the reactionists to give a false colouring to the whole conduct of the affair; a colouring in which all the advantage goes to the side of disorder.

HONGKONG'S SORROW FOR THE QUEEN'S DEATH.

We received last week from H. E. the Governor copies of the following four telegrams for publication:—

"Governor, Hongkong, to Secretary of State, London, dated 23rd January, 1901.

"I have received with deep sorrow announcement of the death of Her Majesty the Queen."

"Secretary of State, London, to Governor, Hongkong, dated 24th January, 1901.

"His Majesty the King thanks you for your sympathetic message."

"Governor, Hongkong, to Secretary of State, dated 24th January, 1901.

"Resolution passed by Members Legislative Council this day:—Members Legislative Council have heard with profound sorrow death of Her Majesty the Queen, and desire humbly to express most heartfelt, loyal and respectful sympathy with Their Majesties and the Royal Family in their bereavement. Chinese community humbly express profound grief and most respectful and sincere sympathy. Entire body of Hongkong Freemasons send profound and reverent sympathy."

"Secretary of State, London, to Governor, Hongkong, dated 24th January, 1901.

"His Majesty the King has been deeply touched by loyal expressions of condolence conveyed in your telegram. Please thank Members of Legislative Council, Chinese community, and Freemasons, on behalf of His Majesty the King and the Royal Family."

PROCLAMATION OF KING EDWARD VII.

UNIQUE CEREMONY ON THE CRICKET GROUND.

A scene unique in the history of the colony of Hongkong was witnessed on the Cricket Ground in Queen's Road on Tuesday afternoon, the 29th ult., when His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.) proclaimed Edward VII. King of Great Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India. Though the European civilian population were sombre in their black raiment, the uniforms of the different regiments on parade and the gorgeous dresses of the naval and military officers and the foreign Consuls produced a most brilliant spectacle, and one which will live in the memory of all who attended it. The effect, however, was marred somewhat by the fact that the space was too small to allow of the troops being adequately spread out, they having to be crushed together in order to preserve a good square in the centre of the field.

Four o'clock was the time fixed upon for the performance of the ceremony. Long before that hour everything was in readiness for the coming of His Excellency, the troops and blue-jackets being arranged in three sides of a hollow square with H. E. Major-General Gascoigne, C.M.G., and his staff in the centre. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers occupied a conspicuous position along the Queen's Road side of the ground, facing the platform which had been erected for the occasion, and very smart they looked in their scarlet tunics and white helmets. The regimental goat was in front with its horns encased in crape, and the colours were also draped with black. Behind them were drawn up detachments of the Royal Artillery, the Hongkong Royal Artillery, the Royal Engineers, who were flanked on the east by the Royal Marine Artillery and Light Infantry, and on the west by men of the Army Medical Corps, Ordnance Store Department, Army Service Corps, and Pay Department, all branches being represented. On the Murray Road side were drawn up a long solid line of Blue-jackets, four deep and about 1,200 in number. On the western side of the ground were ranged detachments representing all companies of the Hongkong Volunteers, under command of Captain Macdonald, and the Hongkong Regiment, the 3rd Madras Light Infantry, the 22nd Bombay Light Infantry, and the 5th Hyderabad Regiment, in the order named. The route leading from Chater Road to the platform was carpeted with crimson cloth and lined with Bengal Lancers with their pennon-tipped lances. The windows at the Hongkong Club and the other adjoining buildings were crowded with sight-seers. The verandahs and roof of the City Hall were also lined with spectators. The area at the sides and behind the platform was set apart for the general public, with the exception of a small roped-in portion, the enclosure to the right being reserved for the foreign naval officers, of whom a good number attended, and that to the left for the foreign Consuls. A space in front of the

platform was reserved for officials and others associated with the Governor in the Proclamation. The route from Government House was lined with troops—the 3rd Madras Infantry, the 22nd Bombay Infantry, and the 6th Bengal Lancers.

His Excellency arrived punctually at four o'clock. He was accompanied by Lady Blake and Miss Blake, His Honour Sir John Carrington, Kt., C.M.G., Right Rev. Bishop Hoare, Rear-Admiral Sir James Bruce, K.C.M.G., Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, Hon. W. Meigh Goodman, Q.C., Attorney General; Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Director of Public Works; Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Captain Superintendent of Police; Commodore Powell, C.B.; His Honour T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Puisne Judge; Hon. A. M. Thomson, Colonial Treasurer; Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G.; Hon. J. J. Keswick; Mr. R. F. Johnston, Private Secretary; and Captain E. D. Sanders, Hongkong Volunteers, Hon. A.D.C.

His Excellency immediately stepped to the front of the platform, while the Royal Standard was hoisted on the flag-staff, and proceeded to read the Proclamation, the military and naval men standing at the salute and the civilians with bared heads while he did so. At the conclusion the Royal Salute was given, the massed bands of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, the 3rd Madras Infantry, and the 22nd Bombay Infantry, who had been placed at the north-east corner of the New Parade Ground, playing "God save the King," the regimental colours being lowered in the meanwhile.

The following is the Proclamation:—



Proclamation.

WHEREAS it hath pleased Almighty God to call to His mercy Our late SOVEREIGN LADY QUEEN VICTORIA of blessed and glorious memory, by whose decease the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and all other her late Majesty's dominions is solely and rightfully come to the High and Mighty PRINCE ALBERT EDWARD, We

Sir HENRY ARTHUR BLAKE, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Hongkong and Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same;

Major-General WILLIAM JULIUS GASCOIGNE, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, commanding His Majesty's Forces in China and Hongkong;

Rear-Admiral Sir JAMES ANDREW THOMAS BRUCE, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George;

The Right Reverend JOSEPH CHARLES HOARE, D.D., Bishop of Victoria;

Sir JOHN WORRELL CARRINGTON, Knight Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, D.C.L., LL.D., Chief Justice;

Commodore FRANCIS POWELL, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath;

JAMES DALDANE STEWART LOCKHART, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Colonial Secretary;

WILLIAM MEIGH GOODMAN, Barrister-at-Law, Attorney General, ALEXANDER McDONALD THOMSON, M.A., Treasurer;

ROBERT DALY ORMSBY, Director of Public Works, FRANCIS HENRY MAY, B.A., Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Captain Superintendent of Police;

CATCHICK PAUL CHATER, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, JAMES JOHNSTONE KESWICK, THOMAS NERCOMBE SMITH, B.A., LL.B., Acting Puisne Judge;

BASIL REGINALD HAMILTON TAYLOR, Harbour Master, WO KAI, Barrister-at-Law, WEI YUK, RODEERICK MACKENZIE GRAY, JOHN THURBURN, Sir THOMAS JACKSON, Knight, JOHN JOSEPH FRANCIS Barrister-at-Law;

DAVID ROBERT FENTON CRAWFORD, HOMMUSIEH MURWANEE DEHTA, WILLIAM DANBY, M.I.C.E., WONG SHING, HORMUJEE NOWPOOEE MODY, JAMES YARDELEY VERNON VENON, WILLIAM HAETIGAN, M.D.,

Do now hereby with one full voice and consent of tongue and heart publish and proclaim that

Honourable Members of the Executive and Legislative Council.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council;

Justices of the Peace for the Colony of Hongkong;

the HIGH AND MIGHTY PRINCE ALBERT EDWARD is now by the death of OUR LATE SOVEREIGN of happy and glorious memory become our only lawful and rightful LIEGE LORD EDWARD THE SEVENTH BY THE GRACE OF GOD, KING OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, DEFENDER OF THE FAITH, EMPEROR OF INDIA, SUPREME LORD IN AND OVER THE COLONY OF HONGKONG AND ITS DEPENDENCIES, to whom we do acknowledge all faith and constant obedience with all hearty and humble affection, beseeching God by whom Kings and Queens do reign to bless THE ROYAL PRINCE EDWARD THE SEVENTH with long and happy years to reign over us.

Proclaimed this 29th day of January, 1901. The troops having come to the order again, His EXCELLENCE, addressing them, said— Remove your head-dress and join me in giving three cheers for His Majesty King Edward VII., taking the time from me.

This invitation was heartily responded to. His EXCELLENCE, addressing Major General Gascoigne, said—"General, will you kindly dismiss the parade," and then left the platform.

The assembly then dispersed, hundreds waiting in the adjoining thoroughfares to witness the departure of the troops.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 25th January, 9.1 p.m.

The Germans propose to open 50 miles of railway in Shantung from Tsingtao and Kiaochow on the 1st March. The German mining engineers are resuming operations at Weihsien.

Yuan Shikai is inviting missionaries to return to their stations within his jurisdiction, promising both foreigners and native converts to Christianity full protection.

A Hsianfu despatch reports that Tsén, the Governor of Shensi, is preparing hundreds of carts for the purpose of conveying back the Imperial Court to Peking at the end of February. The Empress Dowager is awakening to activity. The Emperor is unwell.

SHANGHAI, 27th January, 7.55 p.m.

All celebration of the Kaiser's birthday was abandoned at Shanghai to-day. The warships dressed, except H.M.S. *Alacrity*, which retained the Royal Standard.

Among the charges brought, the reactionary Censors accused Wang Wen-shao of inspiring the Yangtsze compact.

Native officials understand that the Chinese Government has consented to the beheading of Prince Chuang and Yu Hsien and the perpetual dismissal of Chao Shu-chao.

Jaesche, the Governor of Kiaochow, died to-day of typhoid.

SHANGHAI, 28th January, 7.6 p.m.

Peking native official telegrams state that Prince Chuang and Yu Hsien were beheaded yesterday.

Li Hung-chang is seriously ill and delirious.

Native officials at Shanghai report that peace negotiations have been broken off.

SHANGHAI, 29th January, 8.6 p.m.

Yung Lu is telegraphing to all the provinces, demanding the prompt despatch to the Imperial Court of all available supplies.

Prince Ching is arranging to send on behalf of China a special envoy to condole with King Edward on the death of Queen Victoria and to felicitate him on his accession.

The reported rupture of negotiations is now denied.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On Thursday afternoon, 31st ult., a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices there being present—

His EXCELLENCE the GOVERNOR (Sir HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.).

His EXCELLENCE Major-General GASCOIGNE, C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. MEIGH GOODMAN, Q.C. (Attorney-General).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. BASIL TAYLOR (Acting Harbour Master).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. J. THURBURN.

Hon. R. M. GRAY.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

TAKING THE OATH.

Before the ordinary business was proceeded with the members of the Legislative Council who do not belong to the Executive Council (the members of which had already taken the oath) took the oath of allegiance to His Majesty King Edward VII.

A SOLUTION OF LOYALTY TO KING EDWARD PASSED.

His EXCELLENCE the GOVERNOR said—Before we proceed to business, I desire to propose for the acceptance of this Council a resolution expressing our heart-felt loyalty and devotion to His Majesty King Edward VII. Two days ago, joined by many of the principal inhabitants of this colony, we proclaimed his Majesty as our rightful sovereign Lord. We did so according to the form prescribed by the ancient custom of England and in the nearest available centre of the population, and we did so solemnly, and with hearts full, believing that a worthy King, instinct in every fibre with the best feelings of an Englishman, had been called by the grace of God to reign over us, but feeling that we proclaimed and acclaimed His Majesty in the presence of the yet unburied remains of His Majesty's incomparable Queen Mother, of Her whose name we have all lisped in our earliest childhood and who throughout our lives has been to us the embodiment of everything that was great and good and noble and queenly. His Majesty's life has long been public property. We all know him and we love him as a man for personal qualities which will brighten kingly virtues. He has never in his past life been found wanting in his public duties, and only those whose good fortune has placed them in close connection with His Majesty can realise how anxiously as Prince of Wales he devoted himself to the furtherance of all good works in the public interest. I enjoyed the high honour of His Majesty's notice, and I feel how true is the instinct of the British people that the crown of our best-beloved and venerated Queen has descended upon a successor who will be a great and worthy Sovereign Lord over this vast Empire. I beg to propose to you the following resolution:—

"We, the members of the Legislative Council of Hongkong, beg with profound respect to express to your Majesty, on the occasion of your accession to the Throne of your Majesty's ancestors, our sentiments of devotion and loyalty to your Majesty. We pray that God's blessing may rest upon the successor of the revered and noble Queen whose memory is so lovingly enshrined in the hearts of her people, and we pray that to your Majesty there may be granted a happy and glorious reign over a united and prosperous people."

—(Applause.)

The Hon. C. P. CHATER said.—Your Excellency, it is with very great pleasure that I rise to second the resolution just proposed, which will, I am sure, be carried with acclamation in this Council and be fervently endorsed by all His Majesty's loyal subjects in this colony. For I venture to say that, though one of the

most distant dependencies of the great Empire over which King Edward VII. has been suddenly called to rule, there is no more loyal community than this, of which I am proud to be one of the representatives. In no British colony is the late Queen more sincerely mourned, and in no part of his vast dominions will His Majesty the King find readier sympathy in the regal duties which he is so eminently fitted to discharge, but which nevertheless entail such weighty responsibilities. In the midst of our gloom and while keenly feeling the great loss the Empire has suffered in the death of our venerated Queen and Empress, it is no small consolation to know that she has left for her successor one whose mature judgment, ripened experience, and ready tact will be sure to carry him through difficulties and guide him to safe conclusions in great crises, should such come. That His Majesty King Edward may enjoy a happy, peaceful and prosperous reign, not less glorious than that of his illustrious predecessor, is indeed the prayer of his subjects of whatever race or creed. I beg to second the resolution.

The Hon. Dr. HO KAI said—Sir, on behalf of my colleague and myself, and those whom we have the honour to represent on this Council, I have much pleasure in supporting most cordially the resolution that has been so eloquently proposed by Your Excellency and seconded by the Honourable the Senior Unofficial Member. In the deep and universal gloom into which we have all been plunged by the sad death of our beloved Queen, the accession of His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII. to the throne has been the one bright spot, the silver lining, as it were, of the black cloud overhanging the whole Empire. In His Majesty we have a most worthy successor to our glorious and noble Queen, and on him we may confidently rest our hopes of the future and the continued greatness, prosperity and happiness of the vast British Empire. "May His Majesty have a long, happy, and glorious reign" is the humble wish and fervent prayer of all His Majesty's loyal and devoted Chinese subjects in this colony of Hongkong.

His EXCELLENCE the GOVERNOR—Members of the Legislative Council who are prepared to assent to that resolution kindly stand.

All rose.

PAPER.
The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table reports dealing with the water supply at Kowloon.

F. NANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 1 to 5 and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 20) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS laid on the table a report of the proceedings of the Public Works Committee at a meeting held on the 23rd January, and proposed its adoption.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was carried.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills passed their first readings:—

Bill entitled an Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to public health in the colony of Hongkong.

Bill entitled an Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to rating.

Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the criminal law as regards certain indecent outrages and assaults.

Bill entitled an Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to trustees.

Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend and declare in certain respects the law to be administered in the Supreme Court.

Bill entitled an Ordinance to repeal various statutes relating to civil procedure or matters connected therewith.

Bill entitled an Ordinance to establish a code of procedure for the regulation of the process, practice, and mode of pleading in the civil jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of the Colony.

THE DEFENCE CONTRIBUTION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to repeal and re-enact with amendments the Defence Contribution Ordinance, 1896.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded: He said—As it is desirable to have the Bill put through as early as convenient it may not be out of place for me to make a few remarks on seconding the first reading. Honourable members are aware that at present the colony is paying 17½ per cent. on its ordinary revenue on account of military contribution, and that in addition to this large payments are made annually on account of barracks, defence works, and other extraordinary military works. What is now proposed is to combine these payments by making an annual contribution of 20 per cent. on the ordinary revenue of the colony, as has been done in the Straits Settlements. In the Secretary of State's despatch putting forward this proposal the following new works to be paid for by this Government are suggested, viz.:—defence works, £90,000; extensions of existing works and buildings £45,000; tactical roads, etc., £16,300; the total cost of which will, therefore, amount to £151,300, or say \$1,513,000. In addition to this, however, there is a balance of £53,360, or \$533,600, still to be paid on account of barracks and other works in progress. It would, therefore, appear that the contemplated liability of the colony for such works during the next few years amounts in all to \$2,046,600. Now the ordinary revenue for the current year has been estimated at \$3,500,000, but taking \$3,900,000 as the average to be expected for some years to come, the extra two and a half per cent. could be put at \$97,500 per annum. Comparing this with the liability of \$2,046,600, it would apparently take over 20 years to pay the whole amount off. Again, as hinted by the Secretary of State: "The arrangement now proposed will be more advantageous to Hongkong than the present system, under which the Colonial revenues are continually called upon to meet the cost of necessary works, the amount of which cannot be anticipated." It may be taken for granted that either during or immediately after the period of 20 years fresh demands will be made, so that in my opinion it would be best to have the whole question settled by the present arrangement. As a minor point in favour of the Bill, I may mention that under the present arrangement when private lands are purchased by the military authorities the colony practically loses the benefit of the Crown rents which it has hitherto enjoyed; within the last few years a capitalised value of over \$10,000 having been lost on this account. I may add that the average percentage paid during the last few years on account of all military contributions amounted to 19.42 per cent. of the revenue, or very nearly 20 per cent.

The motion was carried.

THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1891. He said—The Bill to further amend the Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1891, was read a first time on 16th December, 1900, and duly published in the Gazette of 15th December. Honourable Members will recall that, on the first reading, I explained the Bill and stated that I should be glad to know the views of the legal profession and the Mercantile Community with regard to it. I understand the Chamber of Commerce to feel strongly that, having regard to the special circumstances of this colony, the jurisdiction proposed to be conferred upon the Supreme Court is necessary and proper. It would manifestly be most injurious to mercantile credit with Chinese firms in Hongkong, if the mere fact that one of the partners resided in China and was neither a British subject nor domiciled in this colony, was allowed to cast the Bankruptcy jurisdiction of the Court as against the firm. It is over six weeks since the Bill was gazetted and I have heard no word of objection to its principle from either the European or Chinese Mercantile Community. The amendments I shall propose in Committee in no way affect that principle. They relate rather to form and detail. If it be said that, under the provisions of this Ordinance, a solvent or wealthy Chinese subject living in China, but

being a partner in a Hongkong firm, may find his "status" affected by an order of adjudication against his firm made by the Supreme Court of this Colony, the answer is that he could at any time get the adjudication annulled under Section 29 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1891, by paying the debts of his firm himself or getting his partners to do so. Moreover, it must not be forgotten that the merciful provisions of the Bankruptcy laws to the discharge of debtors, the "whitewashing process" as it is sometimes called, is entirely unknown to the much more severe Chinese law of debtor and creditor, so that a member of an insolvent firm amenable to the Bankruptcy law of this Colony is far better off than he would be in China, where he is liable to be cast into prison till he or his relatives have paid the "utmost farthing." Since this Bill was read a first time, the House of Lords have upheld the decision that a foreigner, domiciled and resident abroad, who, without himself coming to England, carried on business there through an agent, was not a "debtor" within the meaning of the English Bankruptcy Act of 1883. See Cooke v. The Charles A. Vogeler Company, 17 Times Law Reports, p. 153. But I observe that, in his judgment, the present Lord Chancellor says: "I am by no means prepared to say that it might not be reasonable thing to apply the English law of bankruptcy to a trader, who, though himself personally abroad, exercises a trade through the instrumentality of an agent, and possessed assets in this country capable of being reached by bankruptcy administration." This is what it is proposed to do in Hongkong, by express legislation, in order to meet the special circumstances and special requirements of commerce in this Colony, because it has been found that bankruptcy legislation precisely similar to that of England is inadequate to meet these requirements. If the authorities at home do not approve of such special legislation it is of course competent for them to disallow the Ordinance.

The motion was carried.

The Council then went into committee and considered the Bill clause by clause. Several amendments were made, and consequently on the Council resuming the third reading was not proposed, being put off until a subsequent meeting of the Council.

The Council then adjourned until Thursday next.

MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council Meeting, the Colonial Secretary presiding. The following Financial Minutes were submitted and passed:—

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of \$14,429.63 to meet the cost of repairing the damages done by the recent typhoon.

ABSTRACT.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Medical Department— | |
| To replace bamboo sun blinds | \$ 207.50 |
| To replace stores, medicines and sundries destroyed at Taipo | 81.00 |
| | 5,288.50 |
| Police Department— | |
| Repairs to two Police Launches | 7,740.00 |
| Botanic and Afforestation Department | 481.13 |
| Public Works Department— | |
| Praya Road West | \$1,000.00 |
| Hospital Sheds, Kennedy Town | 850.00 |
| Telephones | 700.00 |
| Sheds at Taipo | 1,500.00 |
| Lighthouse repairs, &c | 1,500.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 370.00 |
| | 5,920.00 |
| Total | \$14,429.63 |

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of \$1,440 to cover, during the current year, the cost of increases of salaries of Mr. Moore and Mr. Mackie, student interpreters.

The Government recommends the Council to vote a sum of \$200 to provide additional sup-

port for boats' davits in the lighthouse steamer *Stanley*.

The Governor recommends the Council to re-vote the following sums, being unexpended balances of the votes for 1900 under the heading "Public Works Extraordinary":—

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Completion Improvement Wongnei-chong Recreation Ground | \$3,132.10 |
| Expenses in the New Territory | 609.28 |
| Yaumati Nullah | 1,263.32 |
| Chair Shelter at Peak | 900.00 |
| Disinfecter Station and Quarters | 1,957.79 |
| Starling Inlet Police Station | 1,371.83 |
| Causeway and Pier in Deep Water, Taipo | 2,969.28 |
| Sockunpo Latrine | 2,155.34 |
| Public Latrines | 2,709.35 |
| Sewerage of Victoria | 1,644.48 |
| Total | \$18,712.77 |

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of \$1,145 in aid towards the sufferers by the fire at Tai O on the 2nd instant.

This was all the business.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

ADJOURNMENT TILL NEXT WEDNESDAY.

On Thursday afternoon a meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held. The President (the Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Director of Public Works) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Hon. F. H. May, C. M. G. (Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. Bell (Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer), Lieut.-Col. Hughes, R.A.M.C., Mr. J. McKie, Dr. Hartigan, Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, Mr. Chan A Fook and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

The PRESIDENT, after moving the adoption of minutes of last meeting, said—Gentlemen, this being our first meeting since the news was received of the death of the Queen, it is but fitting that I should make some reference to the event, which has plunged the whole Empire in grief and mourning. It is hard to find words to give expression to our feelings on such a sad occasion. The memory of Queen Victoria will be for ever enshrined in our hearts. Truly

"She wrought her people lasting good." Now God has given her peace, and we mourn, not for her, but for ourselves and for our children. We know Queen Victoria no more.

The PRESIDENT, after resuming his seat, again rose and moved the adjournment of the meeting. He said—I think I am expressing the wishes of those present when I move that we now adjourn. There is no very important business, and I think it will be better to adjourn till Wednesday next. We cannot have it next Thursday, as that day is fixed for a meeting of the Legislative Council, at which both myself and the Vice-President will be present.

Mr. OSBORNE said—In seconding your proposal, sir, I feel sure that I echo the feelings of every one present in saying that we entirely coincide with your views as to an adjournment of this meeting, and we do so in humble tribute to the sacred memory of our late beloved Sovereign, Queen Victoria.

The PRESIDENT—Thanks, gentlemen; that is all.

The Japan Cement Company and seven other similar companies are reported to have agreed to form a trust to maintain the price of cement, says the *Kobe Chronicle*. Since 1899 the price of cement has continued to fall, and the godowns of the various cement manufacturing companies were filled to overflowing. On more than one occasion a proposal had been made to form a trust to keep up the price, but no conclusion could be arrived at. Happily the cement market improved last spring, and with the increased demand almost all the stock in the godowns of the companies has been cleared off. The price has, however, remained low, and the proposal to form a trust was recently renewed. At a conference of the manufacturers held to consider the matter, the Japan, Asano, Onoda, Chuwo, Osaka, Zeniya, Kitsugawa and Mikawa, Cement Companies came to an agreement. The price agreed upon was 4 yen per cask of 380 lbs. net. The agreement will remain in force for a year.

THE PIRATICAL OUTRAGE NEAR CANTON.

Telegraphic information reached the firm of Messrs. Carlowitz & Co. on the 28th ult. that Mr. Buckhardt and Mr. Spalinger who, accompanied by Mr. Huygen, had on the previous day left the Shamian at Canton in their lorcha for a shooting expedition up the West River, had been boarded and attacked by pirates with fatal results. The party left in the early morning accompanied by Ah Loong, their confidential servant, who had been in the employ of the firm for over forty years, and two or three house-servants. The boat's crew were men who had repeatedly sailed in the lorcha on similar excursions, and had taken the party out last Christmas for five or six days without any mishap. Every preparation was therefore made for a pleasant trip, and all went well till towards the afternoon, when but a few miles from the Shamian the party were surprised and boarded by a gang of pirates. Up to the present the firm in Hongkong have but meagre particulars of what actually happened, but there must have been a plucky and determined resistance towards the desperadoes by those on board the lorcha, for Mr. Buckhardt has been wounded in two places, once in the right thigh and again in the foot, while Mr. Spalinger has received a nasty body gunshot-wound. Mr. Huygen and one of the house-servants have also been injured, the latter, it is said, rather seriously. The Hongkong representatives of the firm made the necessary arrangements to send a nurse to the sufferers immediately on receipt of the telegram, and the consular authorities were at once notified with a view to the arrest of the pirates.

On the return of the Canton boat on the 28th ult. we learnt that it was while proceeding up the Brick Kiln Creek that the party was attacked. A fusilade was fired at the boat from both sides, and a stink-pot was thrown into the cabin. It is stated that the man who threw the pot was killed, and two others with him, but as to that there is no confirmation at present. Mr. Buckhardt threw the pot over the side, and at once made for his rifle. With that he did good service in beating the pirates off, as also did his companions. A steam-launch was engaged at daylight on Monday morning, and a search party went out later in the day. Other boats have been requisitioned, and it is hoped that the gang will be captured.

Our Canton correspondent, writing on the 28th ult., sent the following details:—

On Saturday evening, the 26th inst., a party consisting of four gentlemen—Messrs. C. A. Burckhardt (of Messrs. Carlowitz & Co.), U. Spalinger (of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.); A. V. Hogg (of Messrs. Reiss & Co.), and G. E. Huygen (of Messrs. Meyer & Co.) went in a stern-wheel house-boat for a picnic. Just as she neared Sam Yung Kee at about 2 a.m. on Sunday, 27th inst., the helmsman saw a boat ahead and he shouted out to her to give way; but she kept on her course. On nearing the men on board of her fired two or three shots, to begin with and then threw two stink-pots one after the other, one alighting on the upper deck of the house boat, and the other falling into the water. Thereupon the helmsman shouted out and awoke the party in the cabin. They got up, blew out the light, and taking their revolvers and rifles had a hot fight with the pirates, who by that time had already boarded the boat, two or three of the gentlemen being somewhat severely wounded and a boatman A. Lung, who had been in the employ of Messrs. Carlowitz & Co. for over 40 years, was shot dead. Had it not been for one of the gentlemen, who used his repeating rifle so effectively as to drive away the pirates, some of whom were shot too while others jumped into the water, there would have been a wholesale murder on board. But it is said that the attack was made not so much for robbery as for vengeance; as there was not much to net in a house-boat. It may be remembered, that on the 2nd of November last year the German armed steam-pinnace *Schamien*, when cruising somewhere near Shek-moon, surprised and captured several pirates together with a lot of booty and handed them over to H.I.G.M.S. *Luchs*. Since then the

pirate-fraternity has sworn vengeance, and when they had a chance of coming across any foreigners they attack and kill them if possible.

Messrs. Carlowitz & Co. courteously inform us that the best possible medical and nursing skill has been obtained for Messrs. Burckhardt and Spalinger, who are recovering as speedily as can be expected under the circumstances. The search for the desperadoes is being continued, but up to the present no clue has been obtained which will lead to their capture.

DIOCESAN SCHOOL AND ORPHANAGE.

ANNUAL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.—THE BISHOP ADVOCATES EUROPEAN SCHOOLS FOR EUROPEANS.

The annual prize distribution in connection with the Diocesan School and Orphanage took place on Tuesday, 29th ult. The chair was occupied by the Bishop of Victoria (Dr. Hoare), and there were also present the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, the Rev. R. F. Johnson, the Rev. Mr. Wells, Chief Inspector Mackie, and Mr. C. Mooney. Selections of music were given by the boys, Masters Eustace and Walter Hagen sang very nicely "What are the wild waves saying?" and Mr. F. S. Whittick (one of the assistants) gave a song.

Mr. H. SYKES, the Acting Headmaster, submitted his report, which was as follows:—

"The school continues to increase in numbers, the average attendance during the past year being 154 against 148 the previous year. The result of the examination by the Inspector of Schools has not yet been received, so that I am unable to give any particulars as to results. Fifteen candidates entered for the Oxford University Local Examinations in July, and of these 13 passed; 1 in the Senior, 6 in the Junior and 6 in the Preliminary. Mr. and Mrs. Piercy are at present away on a well-earned holiday, and we hope that at the end of the year they will return with renewed health and strength to carry on for many years the work which has hitherto so prospered in their hands. Mrs. Piercy's place is being filled by Mrs. Snuggs, who has already gained the sympathy and good-will of the boys. Mr. Frampton, who had worked very zealously for the school, left in December to take charge of the Government English School in Seoul. We expect a master from England in a few weeks to take his place. Mr. Horth, who came out in April, left the colony in July, and his place has been filled by Mr. Whittick, an experienced teacher from Manchester, who with Mr. Snuggs and Mr. Arnold is doing excellent work in the school. During the year various improvements have been completed. The old kitchens have been removed, thus largely increasing the play-ground a new boundary wall has been built, and a new entrance provided, and a tennis court has been made, an addition greatly appreciated by the boys. The building has also been fitted with gas. On the whole the boys have enjoyed good health during the year, there having been no serious cases of sickness. Instruction in physical drill has been regularly given throughout the year by a sergeant of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. During the summer the boys were taken for swimming to Lai Chi-kok twice a week. On Boxing Day, through the kindness of Sir T. Jackson and Mr. Cobbold, the boys were enabled to have a launch picnic to Kap-Sui-Mun. Our best thanks are due to the Medical Staff of the Government Civil Hospital for kind attention to sick boys, to Mr. Chadwick Kew for dental aid, and to the following gentlemen for prizes: The Right Reverend the Bishop of Victoria, Sir T. Jackson, Sir J. Carrington, Hon. W. M. Goodman, Hon. Wei Yuk, Messrs. D. R. Crawford, Choa Seep Chee, D. Elphinstone, Fung Wa Ch'in, D. Gillies, T. Hunter, A. Mackie, F. Southey, W. Whiley. During the year, the Rev. R. F. Cobbold has attended to give religious instruction to the elder boys, and the Rev. J. H. France examined the whole school in Scripture. His report is appended."

Report of Scripture Examination by the Rev. J. H. France:—

"I have examined 119 boys in Holy Scripture and find that the boys give evidence of careful and accurate teaching. The written work was uniformly good, and

the memory work, especially in the lower classes, left little to be desired. I would suggest that, especially in forms 3 and 4, particular attention be given to the meaning of the words used in the Catechism, and that in forms 1 and 2 the boys be taught to pronounce the words more slowly and carefully. The average of marks obtained by the boys is high, one boy having gained more than 99 per cent., and the general condition of the school with respect to scriptural knowledge is highly satisfactory."

The Bishop then distributed the prizes, etc., the following being the recipients:—

HONOURS LIST, 1900—OXFORD UNIVERSITY LOCAL EXAMINATION.

SENIOR.—R. T. Strangman
JUNIOR.—F. Drude, H. Moore, W. Moyhing, Fan Kau, Fan Kam, Cheung U Kwong.
Preliminary.—C. W. Olson, J. G. Howard, Ng Tin Po, H. H. Strangman, E. Ablong, E. Hagen.

PRIZE WINNERS—FORM PRIZES

Form VII.—(1) F. Drude, (2) W. Moyhing.
Form VI.—(1) Pun I Chi, (2) E. Ablong.
Form V.—(1) H. J. Ahee, (2) T. Yeungree.
Form IV.—(1) Fung U Sham, (2) U Wai Tak.
Form III.—(1) Tam Hok Kwei, (2) L. Le Breton.

Form II.—(1) Wong Hon Sing, (2) Lam Chak Yuen.

Form I.—(1) Ko Pak Meng, (2) R. J. Hastings (3) C. A. Bourn.

SCRIPTURE.

Form VII.—(1) F. Drude.
Form VI.—(1) Ng Tin Po.
Form V.—(1) P. Hastings; (2) W. Blumenberg.

Form IV.—(1) Chan Hem Shaw; (2) Ho Wing Shan.

Form III.—(1) E. Law, (2) L. Le Breton.
Form II.—(1) J. Crolis, W. Mackie, F. Siemsen.

Form I.—(1) S. Smith, E. Alvarez, W. Robertson.

SPECIAL.

Good conduct—H. J. Ahee.
VII. Mathematics—Fan Kam.
VI. Mathematics—Pun I Chi.
VI. Physical Geography—Ng Ting Po.
V. Mathematics—T. Yeungree.
V. Physical Geography—A. Mackenzie.
IV. Algebra—V. Wai Tah.
IV. Physical Geography—L. Lewis.
Music—P. Hastings.
Drilling—Fan Kau.
Drawing—Ngai Cheung.

The BISHOP having distributed the prizes addressed a few words to those assembled. After referring to the absence of His Excellency the Governor, who has put off all his public engagements on account of the lamented death of the Queen, he said they all missed Mr. and Mrs. Piercy, but he hoped they were having a good holiday at home and that they would have them back again with them in good health and strength, ready to resume the good work they had carried on at that school before. In the meantime he was sure they might be most thankful that they had got Mr. Sykes and his colleagues with them to carry on the educational work. He was sure from what they had seen that day that they would be perfectly at rest in their minds about the prosperity of the school during Mr. Piercy's absence. There were one or two things mentioned in the report which he might call attention to. One was the great improvement in the play-ground, which he was sure was a very important thing. The thing which people suffered from in Hongkong was want of room to exercise and amuse themselves in, and he was sure they were all agreed that if the school-boys were to do good work they must have good play-grounds. Through the removal of buildings and other alterations the space for play had been almost doubled, and it was a very good thing that this had been done. While mentioning that he might mention a short-coming of his own or rather of Mr. Piercy's. When the alterations to the play-ground were going on he (the Bishop) promised to give the netting to keep the balls into the court on the measurements being supplied to him. However, as he had not been provided with the measurements he had not been able to provide the netting. But the promise held good, and he would s

that the netting was forthcoming on the measurements being given him. (Hear, hear.) He expected Mr. Piercy forgot the matter in the hurry of preparing for home. There was only one other remark he wanted to make, and that was in regard to the school itself. As he came there year after year he could not help being very thankful for the excellent work which was being done there, that being a school which provided an excellent education based on Christian principles. It was most important in this colony that educational work should not be wholly without religion. They would all

realise of course that since last they met there they had a little sister born—the Diocesan Girls' Schools, which was conducted on much the same principles as that school. He was sure they would all wish God's blessing on the little sister, and hope that she might soon have as good a building as that and that the number attending the new school would be as great.

By the way, the boys had really pirated that school, which was built and founded for girls. (Applause.) The boys had simply pushed the girls out and occupied the place themselves. (Applause.) He did not think they ought to cheer for that; he thought they ought to be ashamed. (Applause.) There was just one other point in regard to the school which he wished to mention. As he came there year after year he was very thankful for what he saw; but there was one thing he did not like to see, and he thought they should get it altered. That was the mixing of races in the school—that was to say, the Europeans and Chinese. He thought he could say this without giving offence to either race. Of course he was an Englishman, but as they knew he had really spent more than half his life in teaching Chinese boys. Therefore he did not speak in this manner through lack of sympathy with the Chinese. He loved the Chinese from the very bottom of his heart, and they had seen that day—and certainly it was borne out by his own experience—that the Chinese boys were as capable of studying as the European boys, and could compete with them successfully. Certainly a large number of the prizes that day had fallen to Chinese. Therefore when he spoke as he was doing to do he did it without the slightest idea of disparaging either one race or the other. He did not believe it was a good thing to put the two races side by side in the school. He did not think they mixed. There was a gulf between the Chinaman as a Chinaman and an Englishman as an Englishman, and he did not think it was a good thing for English boys to be educated side by side with Chinese boys, and he felt that it was not a good thing for Chinese boys to be educated side by side with English boys. He thought they wanted to train up the Chinaman to be a Chinaman and not half a Chinaman and half an Englishman. He liked to see a Chinaman an educated man, but a Chinaman, and he would like to see the Chinese educated separately. He must say he considered it a great blot on this colony—and a very serious blot on this colony—that it provided no school where European children could go without this mixture. He did not know how the practice had grown up. At Shanghai there was an excellent school for Europeans. At the same time work amongst the Chinese went on in Shanghai he considered quite as successfully as work amongst the English. He only wished they could see it here. As he said, he did not know how it had come about, but to his mind it was a very serious blow to a colony like Hongkong that it did not offer a school for its own people. It was a good thing to govern Hongkong fairly, and to govern our colonies with all due consideration for the people who formed practically the bulk of the population, but it did not seem to be a good thing to govern a colony to the neglect of the education of the children of their own race; and whilst the claims of the Chinese to a school of their own where they could get a good education ought not to be neglected, at the same time it should be one of the first duties of an English Government in an English colony to provide an education for the sons and daughters of its own people. In conclusion the Bishop expressed the hope that the boys would have an enjoyable holiday, and that they would come back to school ready

for a still more prosperous year's work than the past.

On the invitation of the Rev. R. F. COBBOLD, hearty cheers were given to the Bishop for his attendance.

The BISHOP expressed his thanks and announced that the school would be closed from that day until the first of March.

THE LATE QUEEN EMPRESS.

SERMON AT ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL.

On Sunday morning last at St. John's Cathedral the Rev. R. F. Cobbold preached, taking as his text the words in St. John's second Epistle "The elect Lady," and spoke of her late Majesty Queen Victoria. Mr. Cobbold said:—

I am sure, my Christian brothers and sisters, that you look for no sermon on any general topic to-day. Possibly silence would most rightly testify to our inability adequately to express the profound thoughts which possess all our hearts at this time. Yet it is my part to speak here; and I could not stand and speak in this place even of the riches of the good tidings of the Gospel of Christ without reference to the sad tidings which have been flashed to the remotest corner of the civilised world, and have stirred all hearts to acknowledge the tremendous fact that "The Queen is dead." On Saturday next we shall have an opportunity of humbly and reverently performing an official and public act of mourning. To-day, while we have tried in our service not to lose the character of the Christian Sunday, yet we have been careful that no variable part of the service should be inappropriate to the great topic of present and world-wide thought, it is meet that I should say a few words in tribute to the memory of one whom, for herself and for her conspicuous goodness, as well as for the august and lofty position which she held, we all "loved in truth," as faithful children love the mother who has borne them and nurtured them. There are, of course, many words in Holy Scripture which would supply a suitable text for a sermon. They crowd upon one's mind as one thinks of the mystery of death and the blessed hope of immortality, of a nation's darkest hour of bereavement and the rich possibilities of its inheritance, of the depth of human sorrow and the largess of Almighty God's consolation in Christ. Three words, however, stand at the head of Saint John's second Epistle which may fitly form a title to our thoughts to-day. They are "The Elect Lady." Who she was to whom the evangelist addressed his brief letter, we do not know, but apparently she was one revered and greatly beloved, a woman blessed and well known, a mother of sound faith and of strong influence for good. In these respects she resembles our great Queen-Empress. "Unto the Elect Lady, and her children, whom I love in truth." So Saint John writes: so our hearts preserve the reverend memory of our "Elect Lady," and her children, whom we love in truth. What though her tired body sleeps at Windsor, and her weary brain rests from its labours and her heart throbs no more with the pulse of mortality; to us she is the same "Elect Lady": our affection cannot die, our regard cannot diminish, the splendour of her memory cannot fade: though her work is over, and her warfare past, we can still say "whom we love in truth." The love of the British people for their Sovereign is a national characteristic. It is no mere figment of official respect, but a real personal affection, called forth, in spite of the necessary seclusion and ceremony of the Court, by the real goodness in the object beloved, and by the Crown's undoubted sympathy with the needs of the whole nation. Our beloved Queen was, ay, is, the Elect Lady. Elect by the will of the King of Sovereigns and "only Ruler of Princes": elect among English women as the type of pure goodness, of womanliness and of unaffected devotion: elect among mothers to "bear the white flower of a blameless life": elect of God in the Faith of Christ: elect in the hearts of her people to receive their homage, love, and obedience: elect in life, and now elect, through death, chosen of God to approach His Glorious Majesty in humble submission to do His will in heaven as she did it, and would have it done, on earth. . . .

There are just three items in the meagre messages which we have as yet received of the last hours of our Elect Lady's life—items which may be retained happily in our memories. We are told that, but for one restless night, Her Majesty retained consciousness without pain. Death had no terrors for her, as a beloved and obedient Prelate read prayers for his dying Sovereign. 'O may we die the death of the righteous; and may our last end be like hers! Again we are told that she was surrounded by her children. Happy, thrice happy, is the mother, be she ever so great or so humble, of whom it can be said as of the virtuous woman whose "price is far above rubies," that "Her children rise up and call her blessed." And once more, we are told that the passing of Victoria came in sleep. It seems almost an ideal end: it is what many of us would desire; for so "God giveth His beloved sleep." Our Elect Lady "is not dead but sleepeth." The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God.

"Shall we mourn for those who are not?
Nay, while love and regret
Still linger within our souls, they live with
us yet.
If we love, then the Souls that we love, they
exist and they are,
As memory which makes us ourselves brings
precious things from afar!
There is no Death forever!
Love lives and is for ever."

Therefore to-day we mourn for, we remember, we praise "the Elect Lady, and her children, whom we love in truth."

THE PEKING ROLL OF HONOUR.

The following is the full list of names mentioned in Sir Claude MacDonald's despatches to Lord Salisbury for exceptionally good service during the siege of the Legations:—

Capt. F. G. Poole (East Yorkshire Regiment), Capt. Strouts (R.M.L.I.), Capt. Halliday (R.M.L.I.), Messrs. D. Oliphant, H. Warren, Dering, Cockburn, Ker, Capt. Percy Smith (38th Regiment, retired), Messrs. Clarke-Thornhill, (Rev.) F. Norris, Tours, Tweed, (Dr.) Morrison, Russell, Townsend, Bristow, Hancock, Flaherty, Kirke, Barr, Hewlett, Brazier, Brewitt, Sandcock, Ferguson, Wintour, Richardson, Simpson, De Luca, Dupree, N. Oliphant, (Dr.) Poole, (Dr.) Velde; and two ladies, Miss Myers and Miss Daisy Brazier.

Sir Claude requests the thanks of H.M. Government to be conveyed to the following foreign officers:—

Lieut. Baron von Rahden (Russian Navy), Capt. Myers (U. S. Marines), Lieut. Darcy (French Navy) Lieut. Baron von Soden (German Marines), Lieut. Paolini (Italian Navy), and Lieut. Hara (Japanese Navy).

The following non-British subjects are also noticed as particularly distinguishing themselves:—

Lieut.-Col. Shiba (Japanese), Don Livio Cattani (Italian), Rev. F. D. Gamewell and Mr. Herbert Squiers (American), M. von Stranch (German), and M. Fliche (French).

THE THEATRE.

On Friday night, the 25th ult., Pollard's clever Lilliputian Opera Company played *The Lady Slavey* for the first time in the Colony and succeeded in drawing a very good audience, considering the depressing effect which the recent national calamity has had on theatre-goers generally. Those who witnessed last night's performance had ample reason for satisfaction, for the entertainment was well up to the high standard set by these talented young actors and actresses. The chief burden of the piece fell upon Miss. Madge Williams, who as Phyllis the daughter of Major O'Neil (Master Harold Hill) was quite able to sustain it, while Masters Willie Pollard and Willie Thomas as the Sheriff's officers kept the house in a continual state of merriment. *The Lady Slavey* was repeated on Saturday (twice) and Monday.

On Tuesday night *The Geisha* was put on again and met with a great reception, while to bid farewell to the company on Wednes-

day night, a large house assembled at the Theatre Royal, and encores were the order of the evening. The young performers responded to these nobly, and consequently it was a late hour before the curtain finally went down. Had there been any doubt of our visitors' popularity it would have been dissipated on Wednesday. We look forward to their return later this year.

HARMSTON'S CIRCUS.

The leading feature of Harmston's performance during this week—if it be necessary to make a selection from the splendid programme presented—was the wonderful display by the Jansons, the German aerialists. It is somewhat difficult to give the performance of the two Jansons a comprehensive title, as their work is partly trapeze and partly gymnastic, and partaking of both it is certainly one of the most finished performances we have seen. The lady seems gifted with herculean strength, and in one of the acts she actually grips and sustains in her mouth the end of a slack wire on which her partner turns as neatly as though he were revolving round a horizontal bar. She also hangs head downwards in mid air from a trapeze, and holds with hooks from straps on her wrists a circular-revolving arrangement on which are five people—a kind of aerial merry-go-round. Her partner also does a good deal, and his performance has that precision and neatness of finish which will arouse the enthusiasm of all gymnasts. The Sisters Frezagonda still charm with their brilliant "terpsichorean revels," as the management term it; Ajax continues to twist and turn himself in a most wonderful manner, which leads his audience to believe him absolutely boneless, and George Harmston reigns supreme in horsemanship in the ring. We understand that notwithstanding the large number of artists Harmston's possesses, more are expected from home by the incoming mail steamers.

THE CHUCHOW MASSACRE.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

AN UNREQUITED OUTRAGE.

Shanghai, 22nd January.

Not the least extraordinary thing in this most extraordinary country is the Chuchow Massacre. This affair has been lingering on and on since July last. Demands have been formulated and the various points gravely argued by the Chinese officials until public officials, and everyone connected with it are heartily sick of the whole affair. When it is considered what it was that was done a feeling of stupefaction comes over the ordinary individual at the colossal impudence of the Chinese. An Imperial Edict orders the massacre of all Europeans and, as an aside, any odd other foreigner that may be about. The Governor of Chekiang promulgates this Edict and it is acted upon, with the result that some eleven people, men, women and children, who had taken refuge at the Yamen at Chuchow, are deliberately murdered with the knowledge and connivance of the officials there if not with their actual assistance. The Governor has been allowed to retire and some of the other officials are in prison at Hangchow; but beyond that nothing has been done. Those charged with the conduct of the negotiations have done and are doing their best, but yet the fact remains that things do not advance. They will in time, yes, but so will the "great solution" overtake us all if time enough is only given. The question of interest for the future well-being of prospective residents in the interior of China is, how long is the solution going to take in this particular case? Four thousand British troops are in Shanghai within striking distance of a city where British women and British children have been cowardly and foully hacked to pieces and yet we still argue. There is a British fleet that can get to within striking distance of many a fort erected by the Government that of a set purpose bounded on the murderers and yet we still argue. Both are commanded by men only too willing to exact a stern retribution for the dastardly outrage and yet we go on arguing. We have discussed pros and cons for six months and are now about to begin the

whole business over again, and when the fresh start thus made reaches a hopeless tangle, then we shall probably go through it once more. Meanwhile Lo Feng Lu and the representative of this charming and enlightened people, whose civilisation dates back to ages before that of Europe, who delights his hearers in Washington and elsewhere, are doubtless assuring the respective governments to which they are credited, that only give the Chinese time and they will make ample amends for everything. Whether the Governments really believe these assurances or not does not particularly matter; the people evidently do, and until they really take Chinese affairs into their serious consideration there is not the slightest chance of the Government doing anything. Very few people know and apparently still fewer care whether the unfortunate missionaries were murdered at Chuchow or by Chuchow. The great bulk have some sort of idea that associated with Chuchow there were some murders, but got no further than this. Until then the British public make up their minds that they will not allow the Chinese to murder British subjects and exact no retribution, the Chinese will go on doing it in the future as they have done in the past—with impunity. If these conclusions are just, one it would be as well if the public could spare a little time and attention to the matter and as a start enquire when and how the Chuchow massacre is to be atoned for?

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 26th January.

SUPPOSED KIDNAPPING.

A telegram was sent to the Commissioner of I.M. Customs at Canton on the 22nd ult. that there were on board the steam-launch *Cheong*—on 24 females, who were said to have been kidnapped at Wuchow on the 21st. He immediately despatched the Customs cruiser *Fumun-chai* in pursuit. On reaching Kumchuk she saw the launch taking a boat in tow, and stopped her. On going on board to make a search the crew found the 24 women in question, brought them back to Canton, and sent them to Kwang Chai Hospital to be taken care of for the time being, until their relatives and friends turn up to claim them. As no kidnappers have been arrested in their company it is possible they were not really kidnapped. The case, however, is one of suspicion.

PIRACY ON THE NORTH RIVER.

There are at present many pirates on the North River and their principal quarters are at Fan Tim, Mui Fa Chun, the Wang Sheak bamboo-plantation, Tai Mew Hap, and Tai Cheong. They are provided with firearms and boats and are scattered about on different parts of the river. Sometimes they make over ten attacks a day. Whenever they see a cargo-boat pass they shout out to her to stop, and if she does not, they open fire and board her to rob and plunder. In the majority of cases the passengers and crew do not resist, and think themselves very lucky if they escape with their lives.

THE NEW VICEROY.

His Excellency Tao Mu, the new Viceroy of Canton, is expected to be here on the 1st or 2nd inst., as a few steam-launches have been despatched to Ching-yün to take him and suite to Canton.

The N.C. *Daily News* reports that at 8.30 a.m. on the 22nd ult. a large Chinese lorcha, while making its way up the river, and endeavouring to cross the bow of H. M. torpedo-boat destroyer *Whiting*, collided with her, carrying away the port rigging and damaging the anchor-chain. While the effort to get the lorcha clear and prevent further damage went on quietly aboard the *Whiting*, a regular pandemonium reigned on the lorcha, and it took the combined efforts of the police launch with several launches of H. M. fleet—who came promptly to assistance—to get the clumsy vessel clear. The Whampoa on its way up river to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's wharf had to drop anchor quickly to prevent either collision with the lorcha or running ashore, as the unwieldy craft swinging around blocked the entire passage.

MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 23rd January.
THE PROGRESS OF PEACE—A REVIEW OF PRESENT CONDITIONS.

Even the most conservative people admit that the situation in the Philippines is clearing up and improving steadily, and almost rapidly, when all things are considered. The new year finds the country much nearer peace than ever before since the American occupation, and there are many old residents who say that conditions in the pacified or subdued districts are more satisfactory than in Spanish days. The provinces of Central Luzon are rapidly approaching a normal state, and the people are settling down to their natural pursuits after from three to four years of insurrection and lawlessness. Under the active policy of the military authorities an efficient patrol system has been maintained for the last six or eight months and the result of the work is now being seen and felt in the improvement of roads and bridges and the greatly increased security of life and property. Dozens of villages and hundreds of small barrios which were destroyed by the troops in their northward campaign have been rebuilt and it will not be an exaggeration to say that five-sixths of the people who fled to the mountains on the approach of the troops have returned and rebuilt their ruined homes. Besides these, thousands of others from the outlying districts under insurgent control have flocked into the vicinity of the garrisoned towns in order to enjoy some measure of protection. The fields have been recultivated and nature has smiled upon the war-stricken people, so that good crops have rewarded their scanty labour.

INSURRECTOS INACTIVE IN NORTH-WESTERN LUZON.

The north-western half of the island, under command of General Young, has been a constant source of trouble during the past year, but since the wholesale surrender of Tinio's forces on the last day of November there has been comparatively little trouble. The 36th Infantry has just returned from a three months' trip through these provinces and for weeks no opposition worthy of the name has been encountered. Even the ladrones find business unprofitable and they have not ventured to harass the larger towns for some time. The establishment of civil government in the province of Bangud is so recent that no practical results have been observed as yet, but the Governor's reports are enthusiastic and hopeful. Very little has been heard from the great valley of the Cagayan in the north-east, and as there have been but few reports of hostility, it is safe to assume that affairs are progressing in a satisfactory manner. Southern Luzon is still a hotbed of trouble, partly owing to the wild nature of the country and to the stubbornness of the insurgents, who are able to live in the mountains, being fairly well supplied with food and ammunition. It is from this portion of the island that the best hemp is received and the troops are active in their endeavours to control the districts containing the best plantations; but their success is very limited. The widely scattered garrisons are quite unable to exert more than a temporary influence in their immediate vicinity and the insurgents of the interior practically run things according to their own sweet will, collecting taxes and raising revenue in all manner of ways.

PANAY QUIETING AND BUSINESS REVIVING.

Brigadier-General Hughes is carrying on an active campaign in the island of Panay and is accomplishing much in the cause of peace. In addition to the actual fighting he has introduced a most effective system of arresting and permanently jailing all captured insurgents, and also their active sympathizers. He has paid particular attention to the chief citizens of the various towns and barrios, and his secret service has made most careful investigations with surprising results. Civil officers, landholders, farmers and even priests, have been gathered in for complicity with the insurgents. In many cases property has been confiscated, but in the majority simple imprisonment has been deemed sufficient. The general effect on the country of this severe policy is very manifest and in many parts whole towns have flocked in to take the

oath of allegiance. Recent advices announce the unconditional surrender of General Delgado and twenty of his men. As he is the chief leader, it is expected that other officers and commands will soon follow his example. Affairs in Negros and Cebu are slowly improving and it is merely a question of time for the attainment of peace and prosperity.

DISCOURAGING CONDITIONS IN SAMAR AND LEYTE.

Samar and Leyte are the toughest propositions that the army has to face. The natural difficulties are really more to be feared than the insurgents, though the latter are constantly making their presence felt. The troops suffer more from the hardships of the march than from the opposition of the enemy. It is almost impossible to inflict any measure of punishment and the work is most disheartening, while the climate plays havoc with the health of the men. In addition to these difficulties, the insurgent chiefs have maintained a reign of terror for such a long time that it is very hard for the soldiers to win over the people or inspire any confidence, even in the towns which have permanent garrisons. General Hare has been operating in Samar with two thousand men for the last two months, and yet he has accomplished little or nothing, in spite of the fact that he has had the greater part of his command in action nearly all the time.

THE CAMPAIGN IN MINDANAO.

In the first week of the 28th December Infantry was sent to reinforce the garrisons on the island of Mindanao and since that time all the troops there have been very active. Previous to the arrival of the 28th Infantry practically nothing could be done beyond sending out small ineffective scouting parties, as the garrisons were constantly harassed and had all they would do to hold their own. The insurgents had numerous well-fortified strongholds to which they retired whenever hard pressed, and they knew that with the limited number of troops the Americans could not disturb them. But the arrival of the 28th Infantry changed the whole face of affairs and simplified the problem very materially. The regiment was split up into conveniently sized columns, prepared to move quickly and independently of supply-bases, and in conjunction with the regular garrisons these small units thoroughly scoured the country and eventually captured and destroyed the main strongholds of the enemy. For the present at least insurgents have scattered in all directions and disappeared.

The large island of Mindoro, just south of Luzon, is known to be a place of refuge, hundreds of insurgents who have been driven out of various parts of the archipelago, and no doubt considerable recuperation and organisation takes place there, but owing to the scarcity of troops and their great need in other more important parts of the country, it has not been deemed wise to attempt to occupy this little known and wild, untraced island.

THE NEW POLICY OF SEVERITY IS IN FULL OPERATION.

To-day the military government maintains 477 permanent posts or garrisons throughout the archipelago. Each one of these is a centre of activity from which scouting parties and small detachments are striking in all directions at all times of the day and night. It seems as though the whole army has jumped to its feet with the announcement of the result of the elections as a spur and backing. This was followed up with the issuing of General McArthur's proclamation announcing the severe policy which he authorised the troops to carry out, and they have been carrying it out to the letter of the law. The bulletins that are placed on the military news board from day to day for the information of the papers show the greatest activity in all quarters not only in killing and wounding, but in the burning of hundreds of barracks and shelters and huge stores of rice and provisions which had been laid aside for the rainy months. Besides these cases numerous villages and barrios are being wiped off the face of the country each week. These are for the most part unreported in Manila, but the news gets here from time to time. It is a severe policy and it must furnish rather interesting reflection to General Weyler who was so deeply condemned a few years ago for his harsh measures in Cuba, but it probably does more toward pacifying the island, even

though through the dread of the gory soldier than a more lenient course could accomplish.

The determination of the authorities to hold all prisoners is one of the strongest features of the new policy, as it does away with the much coveted hero-worship and also prevents the hundreds of men who have been captured on the field from turning out and fighting again. Under the new order of affairs Manila is fast filling up with prisoners and all the regular jails are crowded, even the criminal jail is being used for the military prisoners. Other large places of detention are being built at various convenient points about the islands. The deportation of the chief leaders to Guam has already had a marked effect. Prominent insurgents all over the city are shaking in their boots and beginning to seek a way of separating themselves from the crowd which organizes the support of the insurrection. Deportation to Guam is a pretty severe thing, as it means complete isolation and it effectively puts a stop to any negotiation with the insurgent party. The instructions read that the men sent to Guam are to be held there until general peace has been declared in the islands, so it behoves these exiles to use their every endeavour to bring about this state of affairs, and although it is not likely that they will be able to take any active part in the movement toward that end, nevertheless they can accomplish much in an indirect way and through their friends who have their interest at heart.

THE FUTURE.

In the face of all this, however, it is necessary to remember that any condition of peace that may result in the near future can be maintained only at the point of the bayonet. It will not be brought about through any love of the Americans or their institutions. To-day their knowledge of these institutions, which they will in time to come appreciate and desire, is very limited, so the immediate effect cannot be important.

The return of the volunteers at this critical time is particularly unfortunate. When the tide of the insurrection is at its lowest it is too bad that the barrier of troops is to be removed even temporarily, for the current of peace is none too certain and at any moment it may turn, and even a slight rise of the hostile elements may cause months of the hardest work to gain control of them once more. Therefore the arrival of the home troops who are to replace the returning volunteers is most anxiously desired.

RAILWAY IMPROVEMENTS IN FORMOSA.

We have received the advance sheets of the report of Mr. James W. Davidson, U. S. Consul at Tamsui, on the above subject. Mr. Davidson's remarks are so interesting that we quote them *in extenso*. He says:—

In addition to the new railway lines described in a previous report, Tuihoku (Taipéh), the capital, and its suburb, Daitotei (Twatutia), where the tea business is conducted, are to be connected with the port of Tamsui (Hobe) by railway. This is news that can be appreciated fully only by the long-suffering North Formosa resident. The three places mentioned are on the Tamsui River, the distance between the capital and the port being some 11 miles (by river), and the only communication has been by water. River travel for such a short distance does not itself seem specially disagreeable; but, owing to the wretchedness of the launches and the shallowness of the river at low tide, it has obtained a meaning to local residents which can not be calmly expressed. With the exception of a Japanese "side-wheeler" put on the Osaka Shosen Kaisha and a very comfortable little launch run by the Douglas Steamship Company on steamer day, the river trade is controlled by some six Chinese launches carrying altogether about 400 passengers a day. All classes of passengers and all kinds of freight, including several varieties of live stock, obtain easy entrance and receive equal treatment aboard these boats. One may have a Chinese in silk as neighbour on one trip and a crate of young pigs on another. With the exception of a few low benches, scarcely sufficient to accommodate a fifth of the passengers, no seats are

furnished; and if a traveller wishes to enjoy such luxuries, he is expected to bring a chair with him. Should he forgot the latter article, he may be so fortunate as to obtain a 7-inch seat on a side rail crowded between coolies, or he may be specially favoured with a seat on the roof of the little boiler room—a true delight in winter, but quite another thing in summer. The Chinese launches have no special hour for starting. Passengers are solicited by a continuous shrieking of the whistle, and when a sufficient number have arrived on board the little boat gets under way.

Ordinarily, the river trip is made in an hour and a half; but frequently, to the great disgust of the suffering passenger, who is generally unprotected from the rain or sun save by an abbreviated, tattered roof awning, the little craft seats herself securely on a sand bank, and sometimes three hours are required before the tide has risen sufficiently to float her.

At the port of Tamsui is the custom-house, but the commercial centre is round about the capital and its suburbs, Banka and Daitotei (Twatutin). Much inconvenience is felt and valuable time wasted in making the necessary trip to Tamsui to pass goods through the customs and commercial matters dependent upon frequent communication with the port are difficult to care for. The new railway will lessen these difficulties greatly.

The proposed line will run from Taihoku (Taipéh) to Tamsui via Maruyama, Shirin, Hokuto, and Kantau. Maruyama is a picturesque park on the Kelung River, much frequented by Japanese merrymakers. Hokuto (Pak-tau) is a village at the entrance of the well-known North Formosa sulphur district. There is an excellent Japanese inn here—perhaps the best in the island—and the sulphur springs provide hot mineral baths, healthy and delightful. The Japanese have recognized the value of the place as a sanitary resort, and extensive barracks and bath houses for the troops have been erected. Beyond the springs lies a gorge reeking with sulphurous fumes. The ground appears to be but a thin, ashy crust, vegetation does not exist, the rocks are burnt out and ash-like, and sulphur has permeated both rocks and earth.

Numerous geysers, roaring and hissing like the escape valves of a hundred steam boilers, throw out quantities of hot sulphur and steam. The effect on entering the gorge is at first somewhat terrifying; but later, as confidence is regained, the scene becomes one of great interest, and numerous visitors are attracted to the place. Hokuto is the scenic resort of North Formosa, and with railway communication will doubtless grow greatly in popularity. From this district is shipped monthly some 200 tons of sulphur, the product of three Japanese extracting plants.

The sulphur-spring district, as well as Maruyama, present many attractive residential sites; and if the train service is convenient, it is quite possible that the city business men may elect to have their residences at one or the other of these interesting places.

Shirin and Kantau are villages of trifling importance, though the railway may give them new life.

To obtain the maximum of benefit from the new road, the trains must run frequently, and, that this may be possible without too great expense, the cars will be small and the locomotives light. The gauge will be 3 feet 6 inches, the same as the main line; but only 36-pound rails will be laid. The construction of thirteen bridges will be required, but only two of them are of any considerable size. In building this line, the materials from the old Chinese Kelung and Teckchuan lines, which have now been almost entirely replaced, will be utilized. There are three or more old 25-ton locomotives in good order, a sufficiency of rails, and nearly all the required bridge ironwork now in possession of the railway office; and it is fortunate for the local government that this serviceable material can be put to such good advantage. There is no difficult engineering work required in the construction of the road, the maximum grade being but 1 in 100 and the curves very slight. The total length of the new line as surveyed is 13 miles, and it is expected that trains will be running by June, 1901. The cost of the same, exclusive of the materials referred to above, is estimated at 420,000 yen (\$210,000).

With the railway now being constructed through the island to Takow, and the line just described running across the north of the island from Kelung to Tamsui, the Government will have completed the system of railways most required. A line from the west across the mountains to the east coast would be of great political value, but it is doubtful if it would ever be profitable, considering the cost of the difficult engineering work which the construction would necessitate.

In connection with the railway building through the island, six locomotives, considerable general rolling-stock material, 60 miles of 60-pound rails and fastenings, and 400 tons of bridge work will be shortly purchased by the railway office. There are at present four large Baldwin locomotives here, giving splendid satisfaction, though the chief engineer informs me that there are very few Formosa trains sufficiently heavy to obtain full value from them, and the six locomotives now desired are to be lighter and consume less coal. Although the specifications for the new engines will call for some parts of American design, the general type will be more in conformity with the English machine; and, unless home manufacturers are prepared to follow the specifications, the order will probably go to England. The rails and most of the bridge work are, it is reported, to come from the United States

FOOCHOW.

The following items are from the *Foochow Daily Echo* of the 19th ult.:—

From a notice issued by the Acting Harbour Master we learn that the position of the sunken rock struck by the *Hsin-fung* last autumn has been marked by a Red Spar Buoy.

There was a large fire in the suburbs about half way between the City and the Bridge. Breaking out in a basket-maker's shop at about 8 o'clock, it continued burning until half-past 10, by which time upwards of 150 houses had been consumed. It is reported that only one life was lost, but several natives were badly burnt by the flames.

Hockey.—The greatest interest continues to be taken in this game. On Monday and Friday the ladies had the ground and on both occasions capital games were played, on-lookers declaring the play to be rapidly improving. The Club's game on Tuesday was merely a practice, but was much enjoyed by all present. Our person unfortunately got a black eye, not from a stick or ball but from another player's elbow. On Thursday a match was played, "The Missionaries v. Foochow." The raw, cold drizzle of the afternoon kept spectators away, which was unfortunate, as it was a splendidly contested game, ending in "Foochow" scoring 3 to "The Missionaries" 2. With much good play all round, Mr. Doodha's goal-keeping was remarked upon as being magnificent.

SHANHAIKWAN.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Shanhaikwan, New Year's Day. The Russians are still in possession of the railway and seem most reluctant to give it up. So far the Germans have not hoisted their flag but have got the staff up ready for the purpose. They too are wearying of Russian bluff and say they will take the railway by force if this kind of thing goes on. Russian bluff is amusing enough at close quarters, though it seems effective enough at a distance, judging from its success. The soldiers are slaves, soul and body, to their officers, and have the life of dogs. A cheery crowd they are though, and pipe away at their quaint old-world songs—nearly all of which have a dash of the minor key in them. They are very kind as a rule in their treatment of foreigners, certainly they have been so to me, but rough is not the word for their treatment of the Chinese. The Russians in war will not be hampered with heavy commissariat wagons. They live on what they pick up. Their coarse black bread and coffee seems to be their principal stay. With better treatment and enlightenment they would prove the best soldiers in the world. As it is, they are slovenly and stupid-looking, if hardy and brave.

Russia has cleared out the workshops here and the best of the rolling stock has been run into Manchuria.

Apparently Russia is loth to let go her hold of the line without Germany's promise not to give it to England, and this the Germans naturally resent. So it seems, but who knows what is? And who can tell what will be?—*N.C. Daily News.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE ACCESSION CEREMONY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 29th January.

DEAR SIR.—There is an old and well known saying among Englishmen, namely "Don't spoil sport" and a very excellent motto it is; but as an observer of the proceedings at the Cricket Ground to-day I think there is but one feeling amongst all the non-selfish thinking people in this colony, that to hold on the only well-kept patch of ground that we have for cricket and tennis the ceremony of to-day is one of the most inconsiderate things our "Powers-that-be" have done for a long time.

As far as I can see or hear (for the matter has been well commented on) there was no reason whatever for holding the ceremony on the Cricket Ground the proper place for which was undoubtedly the Happy Valley, where one of the finest displays in the Military and Naval forces ever seen in Hongkong could have been given, especially with the number of troops there are just now in the colony, and I am quite sure that the feelings of all the members of the Hongkong Cricket Club are with me in saying that a great hardship has been done to the cricket and tennis-playing community in having their ground cut up as it has been after nursing it for so many months in the summer for the brief little season now in full swing. It is to be hoped that it will be a long time before such a stupid and ill-conceived blunder occurs again. I might add in conclusion that of course with the ceremony in itself no one has any cause to find fault, but there is a place for all things and the Cricket Ground is the place for cricket. As all the world knows King Edward VII. takes an interest in every kind of sport, and I am quite sure that nothing would have been further from his thoughts than that the ceremony in honour of his accession should have taken place where it did, especially with other places much better adapted for it in every way.—Yours, etc.,

"A MEMBER OF THE HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 29th January.

SIR.—The proclaiming of King Edward VII. on the Cricket ground this afternoon was a miserable fiasco, as could only be expected by the selection of such a place for such a purpose. The Governor and a few of his satellites, some sailors and soldiers occupied all the available space, and the public, who would have been only too proud and happy to acclaim their new Monarch, were conspicuous by their absence. The Governor by his action has insulted the Hongkong public and the sailors and soldiers of the Garrison, all of whom should have been given the opportunity of acclimating the new Monarch.—Yours, etc.

"DISGUSTED."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 30th January.

SIR.—Your correspondent, "A Member of the Cricket Club," seems to forget that the Cricket Ground, so-called, does not belong to the Cricket Club, but to the community. Apart from this fact, the damage done yesterday was infinitesimal, as he can discover by going to look at the ground now. The area devoted to cricket-matches was practically untouched. The Cricket Ground is the only suitable area in the centre of the city for such a ceremony as that of yesterday. I do not know whether there was any necessity for holding it in the centre, but had it been held in the Happy Valley it certainly must have been conducted

on a large scale, which might not be thought advisable at a time of such general mourning. As for the writer who disguises his personality under the style of "Disgusted," I am surprised that he should allow his *animus* so to carry him away as to designate by the name of the "Governor's satellites" the leading naval, military, and civil personages in Hongkong. Are even the unofficial members of the Legislative Council "satellites," just because they took a leading part in the ceremony? I too, sir, am disgusted—at an exhibition of bad taste on the part of your correspondent.—Yours, etc.

S. P.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 30th January.

SIR.—May I be permitted to draw your attention to a slight inaccuracy in connection with your report of this morning (which, if not corrected, may prove misleading in some quarters) concerning yesterday's ceremony on the Cricket Ground, the proclaiming of His Majesty King Edward VII.

You report His Excellency the Governor on leaving the platform "being vigorously cheered as he reached Chater Road by the gentlemen assembled in the Hongkong Club, &c., &c.," whereas the actual facts are that the gentlemen assembled at the Hongkong Club who did the cheering were loyally responding to a toast of "A long life and a long reign to our new Sovereign, His Majesty King Edward VII."

It was merely a coincidence that the Governor was leaving the platform at that moment.—Enclosing my card, I am, yours, &c.,

ONLOOKER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 30th January.

SIR.—I hardly think that your correspondent "Disgusted" hit the right nail on the head in calling the ceremony on Tuesday a "miserable fiasco," for what was done was well done, the troops made as brave a show as their limited numbers and the confined space would admit and the simple movements ordered were performed with precision and neatness, but the fault lay in the wasted opportunity, in the inappropriateness of the procedure and the location to the purpose of the ceremony.

The very object of the proclamation of the accession of the King by his local representative, the Governor, is to emphasise and bring home to the people of this Colony, European and Asiatic, that it is the King who now reigns, that it is to the King that honour is due, that it is to the King they owe allegiance. Such a proclamation the commonest of commonsense dictates, should be made in the most solemn and imposing of fashions, and with ceremonies that would afford the opportunity for the public display of loyalty on the largest possible scale. To curtail the ceremonies attending it to the meagre and unimpressive performance of Tuesday day shows such an utter disregard of the proprieties, such a want of appreciation of the honour due to the throne as to amount to an insult to His Majesty the King on the part of those responsible.

It is true we mourn and mourn sincerely our much loved Queen, but that is no reason why we should not pay due honour to her son. Why thus was this opportunity missed? Was it by orders from home? It is hardly possible, but in charity to the intelligence of our local powers that be I hope it was.—Yours, etc.,

LOYALIST.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 31st January.

SIR.—Though but a stranger in your midst, I happen to be in a position to know that His Excellency your Governor desired that the Accession ceremony should be performed in the quietest and most unostentatious manner possible. Taking place, as it had to, at a time of universal grief and sorrow, his action was but befitting the occasion and showed a delicacy of feeling and a sense of decency sadly wanting in certain letters now appearing in the columns of a contemporary.

As the meanderings of a certain class of irresponsible persons whom we find in every community, we took these letters for what they were worth and paid but little heed to them. What was our astonishment, however, at

finding your leading contemporary, whose columns, I believe, voice the opinion of a large number of influential members of your Colony, devoting a leading article to the same topic couched in the same strain, while loudly proclaiming the "proverbial and deep seated loyalty" of Hongkong! Proverbial it may be, as being so soon ready to cry "Le roi est mort, vive le roi." As for its depth, I fear one need not look far beneath the skin.

"WHEREAS it has pleased Almighty God to call to His Mercy our late SOVEREIGN LADY QUEEN VICTORIA of Blessed and Glorious Memory."

Is this, sir, I submit, a fit subject for "universal rejoicing?"

Could this, sir, have been read by His Excellency with "impressiveness and pomp" to a rejoicing multitude in the presence of thousands of our soldiers and sailors?

Your contemporary, sir, seems to hold that such a course would have been decent and in order, and if, as he claims, he is a "representative of public opinion," I can only say 'Go to! Hongkong; I say ye shame!' from

INDIA.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 30th January.

SIR.—The speech of the Bishop of Victoria at the recent prize distribution in the Diocesan School, in which he expressed an opinion as to the advisability of having separate primary schools for English and Chinese children, will undoubtedly be read with much pleasure by European parents in this colony.

The Bishop said, and his words are well worth repeating:—"That he considered it a "great blot on this colony—and a very serious "blot on this colony—that it provided no school "where European children could go without this "mixture. . . . He did not know how it "had come about, but to his mind it was a very "serious blow to a colony like Hongkong that it "did not offer a school for its own people. It "was a good thing to govern Hongkong fairly, "and to govern our colonies with all due con- "sideration for the people who formed practically "the bulk of the population, but it did not seem "to be a good thing to govern a colony to the "neglect of the education of the children of their "own race; and whilst the claims of the Chinese "to a school of their own where they could get "a good education ought not to be neglected, "at the same time it should be one of the first "duties of an English Government in an Eng- "lish colony to provide an education for the "sons and daughters of its own people."

There is no doubt that the Bishop's opinion will be emphatically endorsed by all parents in the colony, and those who for years past have been striving to obtain such educational facilities for their children, will welcome the Bishop as a leader in this absolutely essential reform. Hitherto, I believe, for I write as a newcomer, a number of European parents have done their utmost to persuade the Government to establish a school for European children, but without avail, and I believe, that in Kowloon, despairing of Government help, they actually started and maintained for a time such an institution. Apparently those Government officials who should have unhesitatingly helped forward such a movement, displayed an inconceivable indifference, with the result that Hongkong stands conspicuous amongst the other colonies of the Empire of possessing no school for the English children, who are born and bred in the colony, and who one day will assume the responsibilities of their parents.

One would imagine that the first duty of the Government would be to provide for the English children of the colony an opportunity for receiving an education equal to that imparted by a reputable school at home, in an institution from which Asiatics are excluded. Although I am prepared to admit that our local masters are competent and conscientious men, it is impossible to accept that the English boy is as well trained with the Chinese in his class as he would be without them. One is struck with the great want of interest the English lads here take in their schools—their one desire seems to be to get away from them. This may be said to be unreasonable, but there is

something in that want of interest which should receive serious consideration. Another important point that weighs with many parents is the question of contact. It is impossible to conceive that European lads can benefit morally from intimate intercourse with Chinese boys, and I use the term in its broadest sense.

The point is that there does not exist a school in the colony for European children a matter which is incomprehensible to a newcomer to such an important colony as this is. Its necessity is obvious to all parents, and that being so, it should be the immediate duty of the Government to provide such a school. If Tientsin, Shanghai, Chefoo, and even Weihaiwei can possess such well-established and excellent schools as they do possess for the education of European children alone, surely it cannot be argued that such a necessity does not exist in Hongkong. It is impossible nowadays for many residents to send their children to Europe to be educated, and in such a city as this, it should of all places in the east be unnecessary. Hongkong should not only be the centre of primary education among the scattered British communities in the Far East, but it should also furnish facilities for advanced education.

Whilst everything has apparently been done for the education of Chinese children, H.E. the Governor could perform a noble work, and one that would keep his name in lasting remembrance by instituting a good school for European boys and girls in the colony.—Yours, etc.

A PARENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 31st January.

SIR.—Every parent and every thoughtful citizen will be grateful to the Bishop for his brave words at the Diocesan School when he advocated in the strongest terms a public school in Hongkong for European boys only. I say brave, because it requires a certain amount of bravery for anyone bearing the official trade-mark to propose anything which has even the slightest appearance of class legislation, but in this case when the matter is sifted out it will be found that the class legislation is all on the side of the Chinese, for they have exclusively Chinese schools receiving Government support both in Hongkong and Kowloon. There are other reasons. Suppose our comparatively small fleet in these waters were crippled and an invading force approaching Hongkong from Kowloon side, who would the Government expect to respond to the call to arms? The Chinaman, or the white men owning King Edward as their liege, and such of their neglected children as were capable of carrying arms? The Chinaman, estimable trader and law-abiding citizen as he is, would nevertheless scuttle like a rat from a sinking ship. Then again on the question of morals and habits—it is not necessary to make any comparisons which are usually odious, but as the worthy Bishop says there is a gulf—the train of thought and the habits of the adult races are different. The ordinary boy is imitative and has sufficient of the old Adam in him to not always distinguish what is best for his own welfare. Do the English Government want English boys with Chinese ideas and habits, or English?—that is the point. The Government will probably say we cannot afford a public school for European boys. What, may I ask, is their object in storing up a huge surplus? The treasury chest owing to the general prosperity and heavy land sales is full to overflowing, and the Public Works Extraordinary in course of progress practically nil. I remember a once well known unofficial, who is now no more, saying "a surplus is a mistake, Hongkong should always have a deficit. As soon as ever we get a surplus down will come the military for a further contribution, or the Government officials will vote themselves further increases of salary."

If the Government would grant a suitable site at the Peak or on the Bowen Road and give a portion of the money required, I feel sure the English community would do the rest: at all events, I for one would subscribe liberally.—I enclose my card and remain, sir, your obedient servant,

H. H.

PARLIAMENT AND THE CROWN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 25th January.

SIR,—Referring to the telegraphic information conveyed in your columns this morning anent the meeting of Parliament, there seems to be a generally expressed opinion that the Legislature was dissolved by the demise of the Crown. Until recently this was so, and by the common law the dissolution happened immediately upon the death of the reigning sovereign, for, being considered in law as the head of the Parliament, that failing, the whole body was held to be extinct. But the calling of a new Parliament immediately upon the inauguration of the successor being found inconvenient, and dangers being apprehended from having no Parliament in being in case of a disputed possession, it was enacted by 6 Ann C. 41 that the Parliament in being should continue for six months (but no longer) after the demise of the Crown, unless sooner dissolved or prorogued by the successor, and that, if it were at the time of such demise separated by adjournment or prorogation it should reassemble immediately. It was also enacted by 37 Geo. III. C. 127 that in case of such demise between a dissolution and the day appointed by the writs of summons for the meeting of a new parliament, the last preceding parliament should immediately convene for six months, unless sooner prorogued or dissolved by the succeeding sovereign, and that, in the event of such demise on or after the day appointed for assembling the new Parliament, but before it had in fact assembled, then the new Parliament should in like manner convene for six months unless sooner prorogued or dissolved. The law on this subject is now further regulated by the 20 and 31 Vic. C. 102 S. 51 which enacts that (anything in 6 Ann C. 41 notwithstanding) the Parliament in being at any future demise of the Crown shall not be determined or dissolved by such demise, but shall continue so long as it would have continued but for such demise, unless sooner prorogued or dissolved by the Crown.—Yours, etc.,

H. C. AN.

THE MURDERED SCHOOLMASTER.

Hongkong, 28th January.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I was glad to see in your paper a few days since the suggestion that a subscription should be opened for the family of the murdered Chinese schoolmaster—left, as we understand, wholly destitute. I have been a little surprised and disappointed to see no further notice or acknowledgment of subscriptions.

Hoping, however, that your suggestion will be carried out, I enclose my contribution, and am, etc.,

AN ENGLISHMAN.

THE PIRATIONAL ATTACK ON EUROPEANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 29th January.

SIR,—As one of the gentlemen recently attacked by pirates near Canton was an Englishman, and his complaint will presumably be sent in to the British Consul-General at Canton, it may be opportune to quote a few expressions of opinion given by Mr. Scott in his last report to the British Government. He wrote:—

"It may be as well that something should be said on the subject of so-called 'piracy' in the Canton waters and on the West River. The use of the words 'piracy' and pirates in this connection has given the public a false impression on the subject, and has no doubt conjured up pictures of the buccaneers, Captain Kidd and other famous freebooters. . . . The piracies are gang robberies with arms, but without, for the most part, actual violence. . . . When the gang have finished with a launch the men usually take a polite farewell, but the whole matter has, in my opinion, been so grossly exaggerated and so false an impression been created in the public mind at home and in China to judge by the public prints that I have thought it right to point out the real facts of the case."

Probably the German authorities will take a different view of this repetition of "an exaggerated fact" from Mr. Scott, although "no bale" of German "piece goods" was reported missing, a *sine qua non*, in Mr. Scott's opinion, of a real piracy. It is to be hoped the China Association will make a strong case to the British minister for prompt and effective action.—Yours, etc.,

"OBSERVER."

SATURDAY'S MILITARY SERVICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 31st January.

SIR,—As a resident who hopes to be present at Saturday's military memorial service, may I suggest to those responsible for its arrangement that it be held on the much abused cricket ground, as it will be impossible for all to get inside the Cathedral.—Yours, etc.,

VOLUNTEER.

HUMPHREYS ESTATE AND FINANCE CO., LIMITED.

The fifteenth ordinary annual general meeting of the above company was held at the offices, Nos. 38 and 40, Queen's Road Central, on Monday, the 28th ult. Mr. Hart Buck presided, and there were also present Messrs. J. S. Van Buren, C. Ewens (directors), W. C. Taylor (secretary), H. Humphreys, A. H. Mancell, C. S. Sharp, S. Rustomjee, and Ho Fook.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, as the report and statement of accounts have been in your hands for some days, I do not propose to read them, unless any shareholder wishes me to do so. Since 16th May last, as you are aware, this company has been working under new articles of association, with a board of directors and general manager. It is, therefore, with great pleasure that your directors now come before you with such an excellent statement of accounts. The net profit greatly exceeds that of any previous year, but in view of the fact that most of it has been made by sales of properties, I think you will all agree that the large amount which your directors propose to place to permanent reserve fund account is in the best interests of the Company. You will be pleased to hear that further sales of property have already yielded profits amounting to \$90,000—which will come into this year's account, so that an equally good dividend to that which you are now getting is assured. Until recently a large proportion of our property consisted of undeveloped land, which, although continually increasing in value, proved, from a dividend point of view, a source of weakness, because, while bringing in no return, the land was subject to a considerable amount in Crown rent. By the end of the current year, however, when it is fully, or nearly fully, developed, it will be a source of strength, so that, taking everything into consideration, I think we are justified in looking forward to the future with confidence. You will see, on referring to the accounts, that debentures \$200,000 do not again figure amongst our liabilities, as they were paid off on the 31st December last. In fact, you will observe that our liabilities, other than those to our shareholders, are practically nil. At the same time, I do not suggest that it is unwise for us to borrow money at a cheap rate of interest. On the contrary, it would be a distinct advantage if we could do so without, as in the case of mortgage debentures, tying up our securities under a mortgage deed to trustees. This course necessitates not only waste of valuable time whenever a property is sold, but all kinds of legal and other expenses in getting the title deeds released from the trust. When business in property is brisk, and it is and has been for some time, these extra costs more than counter-balance any advantage arising from the borrowing of cheap money; hence if it is considered expedient to again borrow for the Company, your directors will endeavour to obtain whatever money is required on different terms. Capital account was increased \$450,000 on 31st March last, by the issue of 45,00 new shares of \$10 each, shareholders on the register on the 15th March who applied receiving four new

shares for every five held by them. The shares were all taken up, and the capital of \$1,000,000 is now fully subscribed. Turning to the other side of the accounts, there is not much that calls for explanation. Your property could be sold at a much higher figure than that at which it stands in the books and the securities we hold against our loans, and mortgages allow for ample margins. The only other item I need refer to is investment in public companies, represented by 125 shares in the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, as our directors considered that, as the company was in a position to build up a substantial reserve fund, such fund should be invested in some gilt-edged local stock, and I think you will agree that no better investment for our reserve fund could be found than Docks. The price at which they stand in the books is the market price on 31st December last. With regard to building operations, we commenced the erection at the end of last year of 16 small European houses at Tsim Sha Tsui and 26 houses at Yau Ma Tei, and it is proposed very shortly to proceed with the erection of about 61 more Chinese houses at Mong Kok Tsui. Your directors do not consider the enhanced prices of Kowloon properties the result of speculation, but the result of the genuine demand of accommodation of a rapidly increasing population in that part of the colony, and your directors will use their best endeavours to meet this demand in a manner that will be remunerative to the Company. If any shareholder has any questions to ask I shall be pleased to answer them.

Mr. SHARP—Can you tell me roughly about how many square feet we have in Kowloon now and at about what it stands in the books?

The CHAIRMAN—About 300,000 square feet. The rates vary. The land at Yau Ma Tei stands at about 80 cents per square foot, and that at Tsim Sha Tsui at about half a dollar.

Mr. SHARP—Thanks.

The report and statement of accounts were then confirmed, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. Ho Fook.

Messrs. C. Ewens, J. S. Van Buren and H. Tung were re-elected directors, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. Mancell.

On the motion of Mr. HUMPHREYS, seconded by Mr. SHARP, Mr. F. Henderson was re-elected auditor, and the appointment of Mr. W. H. Gaskell was confirmed.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen. Dividend warrants are now ready. Thank you very much for your attendance.

KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the twelfth report of the Board of Directors to the ordinary meeting of shareholders, to be held at the Company's offices, Victoria Buildings, at 12 o'clock noon, on Thursday, the 7th inst.

Gentlemen.—The directors now submit you a statement of the affairs of the Company, and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1900.

The balance of profit and loss account for the year, after writing off all charges and expenses, amounted to \$8,362.54. The directors, therefore, recommend that a dividend of one dollar thirty cents per share be paid, which, after writing off the directors' and auditors' fees, will leave a balance of \$362.54 to be carried forward to credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. F. Henderson and J. Goosmann retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Thos. Arnold and W. H. Gaskell, who retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

F. HENDERSON,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 21st January, 1901.

BALANCE SHEET.

To 31st December, 1900.

| | LIABILITIES | \$ | £ |
|------------------------------------|-------------|------------|---|
| 31st Dec., 1900. | | | |
| Paid-up capital | 180,000.00 | | |
| Accounts payable | 362.54 | | |
| Dividends outstanding | 403.10 | | |
| Balance of profit and loss account | 8,362.54 | | |
| | | 189,128.18 | |

| 31st Dec., 1900. | ASSETS. | \$ c. |
|---------------------|---------|---------------------|
| Cash | | 5,829.09 |
| Cost of property | | 182,032.17 |
| Accounts receivable | | 1,266.92 |
| | | \$189,128.18 |

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

| 31st Dec., 1900. | Dr. | \$ c. |
|--|-----|--------------------|
| To charges | | 268.54 |
| To Crown rent and rates | | 2,057.70 |
| To fire insurance | | 268.19 |
| To commission to agents | | 800.54 |
| To repairs | | 1,913.66 |
| To balance to be appropriated as follows: | | |
| Dividend of \$1.30 per share | | \$7,800.00 |
| Directors' fees | | 150.00 |
| Auditors' fees | | 50.00 |
| To be carried to new profit and loss account | | 362.54 |
| | | 8,362.54 |
| 1st Jan., 1900. | Cr. | \$ c. |
| By balance brought forward | | 365.25 |
| | | \$13,671.17 |
| 31st Dec., 1900. | | 13,237.94 |
| By rents | | 54.98 |
| By interest | | 13.00 |
| By scrip fees | | |
| | | \$13,671.17 |

HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the Board of Directors to the ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders to be held at the office of the Company, on Tuesday, the 5th February, at 12 o'clock, noon.

The directors beg to submit to the shareholders the report and statement of accounts for the half-year ending 31st December last.

After paying running expenses, salaries, premia of insurance, repairs and all other outgoings, there remains, including \$42,267.23 brought forward from last account, the sum of \$261,580.55 at credit of Profit and Loss Account. From this amount the Directors recommend that a dividend for the half-year of 8% on capital, or \$96,000, and a bonus of 2% or \$24,000, be paid to shareholders, that \$40,000 be written off the book value of steamers and launches, and that \$50,000 be placed at credit of equalisation of dividend fund, leaving a balance of \$51,580.55 to be carried forward to new account.

It is also recommended that \$70,000 be transferred from the investment fluctuation account to the equalisation of dividend fund which, with the appropriation of \$50,000 from profit and loss account, will then stand at \$150,000, leaving at the credit of the investment fluctuation account \$161,753.68, an ample sum to meet any possible depreciation of value in the stocks held by the company.

As there seemed to be no immediate prospect of working the West River trade remuneratively, it was deemed advisable to dispose of the steamer *Wuchow* and *Sanshui* and four lighters, and the difference between the book value of the company's share of these vessels and the amount realised appears in the accounts now presented.

The *Nanning*, the first of the light draft stern-wheel steamers built for the Canton-Wuchow trade, commenced running in November last, and the sister ship the *Sainam*, it is expected, will be ready to take the line some time in February.

Upon leaving the colony Mr. E. Goetz resigned his seat at the board and Mr. P. Witkowski was nominated by the directors to fill the vacancy. This appointment requires confirmation by the shareholders at this meeting.

The retiring auditors, Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and F. Henderson, offer themselves for re-election.

J. J. KESWICK.
Chairman.

Hongkong, 25th January, 1901.

| 31st Dec., 1900. | ASSETS. | \$ c. |
|---|---------|------------|
| Value of steamers <i>Poican</i> , <i>Honam</i> , and <i>Heungshan</i> and $\frac{1}{2}$ ths of <i>Fatshan</i> | | 712,500.00 |
| Value of steam-launches <i>Lungshan</i> and <i>Lungkiang</i> | | 45,125.00 |
| Payments on account of stern-wheel str. | | 69,652.00 |
| <i>Nanning</i> and <i>Sainam</i> | | 12,000.00 |
| Value of lighters <i>Sun Lee</i> and <i>Wo Lee</i> | | 75,141.6 |

| | Value of properties at Wuchow and Kongkun | \$ c. |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| Value of coal, stores, and spare gear | | 13,375.51 |
| Value of furniture | | 750.00 |
| Value of shares in public companies | | 610,154.00 |
| Value of Chinese bonds | | 1,034.43 |
| Loans on mortgage | | 720,500.00 |
| Short loan on security | | 15,000.00 |
| Cash with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation | | 43,061.49 |
| Interest accrued to date | | 1,821.43 |
| Insurance premia paid for the year 1901 | | 17,406.62 |
| Sundry debtors | | 4,985.44 |
| | | \$2,355,854.36 |

| 31st Dec., 1900. | LIABILITIES. | \$ c. |
|--|--------------|-----------------------|
| Amount of capital, 80,000 shares of \$15 each, fully paid-up | | 1,200,000.00 |
| Amount of credit of depreciation and insurance fund | | 600,000.00 |
| Amount at credit of equalisation of dividend fund | | 30,000.00 |
| Amount at credit of investment fluctuation account | | 231,753.68 |
| Unclaimed dividends | | 19,589.00 |
| Sundry creditors | | 12,931.13 |
| Amount at credit of profit and loss account | | \$2,355,854.36 |

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

| 31st Dec., 1900. | Dr. | \$ c. |
|---|-----|---------------------|
| To amount paid for repairs to steamers | | 16,283.13 |
| To directors' and auditors' fees | | 3,250.00 |
| To balance to be appropriated, viz.: | | |
| Dividend at 8 per cent. and bonus of 2 per cent. on \$1,200,000 | | 120,000.00 |
| To be written off book value of steamers and launches | | 40,000.00 |
| To be carried to equalisation of dividend fund | | 50,000.00 |
| To be carried to new account | | 261,580.55 |
| | | \$281,113.63 |

| 30th June, 1900. | Cr. | \$ c. |
|---|-----|---------------------|
| By amount brought forward from last account | | 42,267.23 |
| 31st Dec., 1900 | | |
| By net earnings of steamers | | 170,313.49 |
| By difference between book value and price realised for company's shares of steamers <i>Wuchow</i> and <i>Sanshui</i> and four lighters | | 26,759.23 |
| By interest on investments | | 41,685.18 |
| By transfer fees | | 88.50 |
| | | \$281,113.63 |

| 31st Dec., 1900. | Dr. | \$ c. |
|------------------|-----|-------------------|
| To balance | | 600,000.00 |
| | | 600,000.00 |

| 30th June, 1900. | Cr. | \$ c. |
|---------------------|-----|-------------------|
| By amount at credit | | 600,000.00 |
| | | 600,000.00 |

| 31st Dec., 1900. | Dr. | \$ c. |
|------------------|-----|--------------------|
| To balance | | 30,000.00 |
| | | \$30,000.00 |

| 30th June, 1900. | Cr. | \$ c. |
|---|-----|--------------------|
| By amount at credit | | 9,000.00 |
| 31st Dec., 1900. | | |
| By amount brought forward from profit and loss account for half year ending 30th June, 1900 | | 21,000.00 |
| | | \$30,000.00 |

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

"C" MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

The "C" Machine Gun Company's first shoot for the "Keswick" Cup resulted in a substantial lead for Corporal Glyn, who made much improved shooting. This cup is to be competed for nine times, the aggregate of the best six shoots to count. The best scores were as follows:

| | 200 | 400 | 500 | H'cap. | Tl. |
|------------------|------|------|------|--------|-----|
| | yds. | yds. | yds. | | |
| * Corp. Glyn | 27 | 31 | 28 | 18 | 104 |
| Bomb. Shoolbred | 32 | 31 | 31 | 3 | 96 |
| Sgt. Smillie | 26 | 34 | 32 | scr. | 92 |
| Sgt. Sherwin | 31 | 27 | 19 | 10 | 87 |
| Gunner H. Sidney | 27 | 26 | 22 | 12 | 87 |
| Gunner Marshall | 29 | 34 | 19 | — | 82 |
| | | | | | |
| * Spoon winner. | | | | | |

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 25th January.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CAREINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

LI SHEUNG V. THE WING FUNG TAI FIRM.

In the above case the plaintiff sued the defendant for recovery of possession of the tenement No. 19, Jervois Street

and gave money to Remedios, who entrusted it to Fredericks to pay the calls. The money which Fredericks received was therefore the money of Remedios. On the day on which he received the money to pay the calls, the defendant banked the money and asked Jenkins to make him a loan of \$250 out of the \$525 banked. To this request Jenkins acceded. But Jenkins had not the necessary authority to accede, as he had parted with his right in the money when it was handed on behalf of Remedios to Fredericks. Jenkins having given an authority which he did not possess, the arrangement between him and Fredericks was futile to bind Remedios. On 17th September Fredericks wrote to Remedios and stated, *inter alia*, "What there is between Captain Jenkins and myself does not concern you in the least," to which Remedios replied next day as follows: "Meantime I note that the non-payment of the call of 250 Punjoms does not concern me at all, but it is a matter between you and Captain Jenkins, to whom I will send copy of your note." Let us see what this reply amounts to. The original contract between Fredericks and Remedios was that, in consideration of Remedios handing \$525 to Fredericks, the latter undertook to pay within a reasonable time calls to the extent of \$525. Fredericks actually set about the business but did not complete it. That was an executed contract, inasmuch as Remedios wholly performed his part of it. "But an executed contract cannot be discharged except by release under seal or by performance of the obligation, as by payment, where the obligation is to be performed by payment." (*Foster v. Dawber*, 6 Exch. 851.) It is clear then that an executed contract, i.e., a contract in which one of the parties has performed all that is due from him, cannot be discharged by a parol waiver. The most that the reply of Remedios amounted to was a parol waiver of his right to insist on Fredericks fulfilling his obligation to forthwith pay the call that was due. But as that parol waiver did not divest Remedios of his right against Fredericks, Remedios, after a reasonable time had expired, was at liberty, notwithstanding such waiver, to bring an action for money had and received to his use, for the failure of Fredericks to perform his part within a reasonable time amounted to a rescission of the contract. Therefore I do not doubt that such an action will lie here. In the case of *Parry v. Roberts*, 3 A. and E. 118, the plaintiff employed defendant without reward to carry £45 for him to a person at Liverpool. Defendant did not deliver the money. Plaintiff sued defendant for £45 had and received to his use. Held that the action lay. In the present case plaintiff employed defendant without reward to take \$525 to the Secretary of the Punjum Company: defendant did not deliver \$250 out of this amount, and is now sued for the sum, which he must pay in addition to the costs of the suit.

Mr. E. J. Grist, solicitor, represented the plaintiff, and Mr. O. D. Thomson, solicitor, appeared on behalf of the defendant.

Wednesday, 30th January.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

CHAN YIK CHO v. CHAN PO SHAN.
This was a promissory note case, the plaintiff suing the defendant for \$600.

Mr. Grist appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Leoker for the defendant.

Mr. Grist said that the \$600 sued for was due on a promissory note made by the defendant to one Li Liu Chin and endorsed by him to the plaintiff.

Mr. Leoker, in raising an objection, said the translation of the promissory note was as follows:—"Now borrowed from one Li Liu Chin, the sum of \$600 in Hongkong current bank notes. It is allowed to demand payment at any time." He submitted that this was not a promissory note at all in the meaning of the Ordinance and as such it could not be sued upon. If his friend intended to sue it must be done in some other form and not under a promissory note. This note did not contain any promise either conditional or un-

conditional to pay. The document was nothing more or less than an agreement to pay. It was only evidence of money lent. He submitted that the document did not comply with section 83 of Ordinance 9 of 1885.

Mr. Grist observed that it was not necessary that any particular form of word should appear in the document, so long as it was clearly an undertaking to pay a certain sum of money at a certain time to a certain person. The document must be read as a whole document, and the meaning of that document must be considered. It was quite unnecessary that the particular word "promise" should be used. The words "Now borrowed . . . It is allowed to demand payment" meant clearly "I promise to pay on demand," and could be read in no other possible way. It was a very constant practice among the Chinese not to put the word "promise" in such documents. It was not generally written. He had heard this same matter discussed there many times. It was a question of translation. In the translation appeared the words "It is allowed." There might just as well have appeared "allowed to demand." "Payment may be demanded at any time," would be just as good a translation no doubt. He submitted that the translation of this note constituted a promissory note and that it contained an unconditional promise to pay and that it could be read as containing nothing else.

His Lordship observed that he did not wish to give a decision on the point off-hand.

Mr. Grist suggested they should go on with the suit and that this point should be reserved.

This suggestion was adopted and evidence was led.

The witness having been heard judgment was reserved.

A JAPANESE PRINCE ON RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA.

Prince Konoye, President of the Japanese House of Peers, and a prominent man in the National Union, has been interviewed, and an account of the interview appears in the *Japan Herald*. The following extracts give the gist of the meeting:—

Prince Konoye, asked as to Russia's armed occupation of Manchuria, said:—

"The situation is coming to what we have long anticipated. No longer can any doubt be entertained as to Russia's designs upon Manchuria, the possession of which helps her to develop Eastern Siberia. Russia is confronted with the vast question of feeding her people in Eastern Siberia, which can be done easily by taking possession of Manchuria. Some think that her development towards the Western Pacific is a legitimate one, which ought not to be checked; I wish I could concur with this view. But, unfortunately, there are indications that point towards the collapse of peace in Manchuria. Corea will be at her mercy. After Corea, what? The Corean boundary, as it is only separated by a river, affords no obstacle to the inrush of an invading army. Once let the Russians cross the river, they will come headlong to Seoul. Then everything will be at an end. If their advance on Corea is to be stopped, it must be stopped now. The time has come."

"You saw the special telegram from London, wherein De Witte talks of Russia's sublime Christian work in Manchuria, and the number of the soldiers—220,000—engaged in it?"

"Yes. As to the number, I feel a little sceptical. But there is no denying that Russia means to remain in Manchuria as long as the sun lasts."

"Supposing Japan were going to ask Russia to quit Manchuria, do you think she would easily assent?"

"Nothing of the sort! You must see that there is a conflict of interests between the two countries, by which assertion I mean that, if Russia goes out of Manchuria, then there is Corea, over which we must settle our account. Collision is inevitable in either way."

"How would it be if Japan, in exchange for complete control over Corea, gave consent to Russia's annexation of Manchuria?"

"That sort of temporary arrangement is of no avail. Russia having annexed Manchuria, it

will be in the natural order of things for her to cast longing eyes on Corea. Out of Manchuria by all means—this only saves the situation."

"Do you think, Prince, that Japan can stand the strain?"

"Well, if Japan goes into further competition with Russia, say in building warships and enlarging the army, there may be no limit to the strain, in which case the people cannot stand it."

"Do you think Japan has the right to protest against Russia's occupation?"

"Most decidedly. Every Power has declared itself in favour of preserving China's integrity. Manchuria is China's province, and Russia has no manner of pretension to encroach on her sovereignty."

A RUSSIAN VIEW OF THE CHINESE OUTLOOK.

The Russian paper *Petersburgskaya Vedomost* has received from Vladivostok, under date of the 9th ult., the following remarkable despatch:—

"We hear from Tientsin that the political situation is in the highest degree complicated and unsatisfactory. After the victory of the Russian troops, the conquered territory desired peace, but the majority of the Allies used every means in their power to prevent Li Hung-chang from opening negotiations. Count von Waldersee entered Peking as a triumphant general, and the Germans arrogated to themselves deeds which had been done at the cost of Russian bones. The Chinese people are being persecuted by the Germans, and feel insulted. Fresh ferment has arisen, and when after the failure of the harvest and the devastation of the country the severe, hungry winter comes on, we shall have more treacherous attacks on the part of the inhabitants, hoping to exterminate the hated strangers. The means of communication are very bad, and with the freezing of the rivers complete isolation will ensue. Under the pretence of the impossibility of communicating regularly with the Court, and while German policy breathes revenge and desolation, the Chinese obstinately elude the question of a peaceful settlement, the more so as Powers, such as Austria and Italy, who have small interest in China, wish to secure a Shylock's percentage out of China. The ignorant populace, acting in conjunction with the marauding bands of soldiers, are capable of bringing about a renewal on a greater scale of the Peking siege. The inhabitants have quantities of concealed arms. Even if no revolt occurs, it is almost impossible for the Allies to find sustenance until the spring. Complications daily threaten to break out in Shanghai, and will do so unless the looting Sepoys, who are so particularly hated by the Chinese, are sent off to the South. The Viceroys on the Yangtze can no longer count upon their troops. There is undoubtedly danger at Hankow. The British will be only too pleased to see the decline of the Russian tea-trade, and to replace it with their own tea from Ceylon. The rivers of the province are very low, and Russian gunboats cannot get up to Hankow. The months of December and January have great surprises in store for the Powers in the Far East. The Chinese dream of celebrating their New Year after a cruel reckoning with their unbidden guests."

Captain Francis Hixson, R.N., it will be remembered, recently returned to Sydney from China after having seen the Australian naval contingents to their destination. Upon his return the popular naval officer decided to take a trip home, and on this becoming known to the officers and men of the Naval Brigade they determined to give Captain Hixson a fitting send-off. Commander Lindeman and a large gathering of the men accordingly proceeded on the 15th ult. to the *Australis*, where the officers took personal leave, and the brigade, every member of whom holds his veteran chief in the highest esteem, gave expression to their good wishes in enthusiastic cheering. Many of Captain Hixson's former colleagues in the Marine Board, the presidency of which he held up to the time of its being superseded by the Navigation Board, were present to wish *bon voyage* to their old friend, as also were many shipmasters and officers of vessels in port.

TRAGIC DEATH OF SIR EDWARD SYMES. K.C.I.E.

Sir Edward Spence Symes, K.C.I.E., the chief Secretary to the Government of Burma, committed suicide on the 8th ult., by shooting himself in the head with a revolver while driving to his office in a gharry.

The late Sir Edward Symes was practically the one permanent element of the Government of Burma in the Secretariat in Rangoon, states the *S. F. Press*. He came to Burma originally, either at the very close of 1873, or the opening of 1874, and was from the first employed at headquarters under Sir Ashley Eden, instead of doing district work. It was only when his seniority required change, that he was transferred to the successive Commissionerships of the Central Eastern and Southern Divisions of Upper Burma, subsequent to the annexation of that country after the war of 1885. Sir Edward was practically the chief adviser, in turn, of Sir Charles Bernard, Sir Charles Cuthwaite, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, and Sir Frederick Fryer, and his name was a household word in the service.

He was born in London on the 16th August, 1852, the third son of Dr. E. S. Symes. He was educated at University College, London, and passed for the Indian Civil Service in 1873. He was decorated for services in connection with the annexation of Upper Burma.

Personally, the late Sir Edward Symes was the most likeable of men, though his extremely silent, impassive, and almost melancholy personality did not lend itself to any general intimacy with him. His health, owing to long service in the trying climate of Burma, became latterly precarious. It must be well over two years ago since Sir Edward went home on long leave, and he had at least two extensions of that period, owing to continued ill health. He could, in fact, have been only two or three days in Rangoon after coming down by the mail steamer from Calcutta, when his tragical end came.

It is an unspeakably sad end to a splendid mind and a valuable official career, says our Straits contemporary, but the memory of Edward Symes will be long cherished with the deepest regard and esteem by all who knew him.

HONGKONG.

The French gunboat *Admiral Charnier* arrived on Thursday from Nagasaki, while the gunboat *Vipere*, of the same nationality, left for Canton.

The uniform to be worn for the Church parade of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps to-day will be review order, with white helmets, belts, and side-arms.

H.E. the Governor of Macao is to be present at the Memorial Service to-day in honour of the late Queen, and will sit in the Government House pew at the ceremony.

Following on the death of Her Majesty the Queen and the accession of King Edward VII. to the throne, the administrative officers of the Crown, under the Ordinances of the Colony, assembled before His Excellency the Governor on Thursday afternoon and took the oath of allegiance to the new Sovereign.

Our Portuguese contemporary *O Povo* in its current issue publishes a portrait of her late Majesty, Queen Victoria, surrounded by a wreath surmounted by the Portuguese Standard and the Union Jack. The lithographing has been done very successfully at the office of the paper. The editorial article contains an appreciation of our late Queen.

On the 25th ult., at noon, the first of the eighty-one minute guns in token of respect to the late Queen Victoria was discharged and the firing continued at regular intervals until the full number had been reached. At 3.30 p.m. the Accession Salute in honour of King Edward VII. was fired, when all the flags on Government buildings and warships in the Harbour were hoisted, as also were those on the various Consulates, commercial houses, etc. The flags remained hoisted until sunset, when they were again brought down half-mast high. They will remain so until further notice.

The French cruiser *Descartes* arrived on the 26th ult. from Macao.

The street hitherto known as Market Street has been renamed Po Hing Fong Street.

Lieuts. J. H. Aitken and R. Mitchell, Hongkong Volunteer Corps, have been granted twelve month's leave of absence.

The return of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week shows that 494 non-Chinese and 148 Chinese visited the former institution, 273 non-Chinese and 2,747 Chinese the latter.

The recognition of Mr. W. F. Aldrich, U. S. Vice-Consul and Deputy Consul-General, as in charge of the U. S. Consul-General, during the absence on leave of Mr. Rounseville Wildman, is notified in the *Gazette*.

Mr. Washington Woodcock, formerly proprietor of the Kowloon City Hotel, died suddenly on Saturday, the 26th ult., in his house at Kowloon City. He was 58 years of age. Death is believed to be due to natural causes.

Sportsmen at the Peak will doubtless be interested to learn that on the 26th ult. a full-grown woodcock was flushed from the boggy bed of the tiny streamlet that wanders down towards Pokfulam, past the Homestead end of the Chamberlain Road, within thirty yards of the roadway.

After the benediction at St. John's Cathedral on Sunday, the 27th ult., the organist played the Dead March in *Saul*, the choir and congregation standing. After evensong Chopin's "Marche Funèbre" was played, the choir walking out in silence. On both occasions the organist managed the organ with great effect.

The China pony *Tarantula*, which in Mr. Evelyn's name won the Racing Stakes and took third place in the Champion Stakes at Amoy this month, was offered for sale by auction at the Race Course on the 26th ult. by Messrs. Hughes and Hough, and was bought in at \$550. A couple of walers fetched \$100 a piece.

On the 26th ult. the British cruiser *Mohawk* left for England. On the 27th the British torpedo-boat destroyer *Whiting* arrived from Shanghai and the Portuguese gun-boat *Zaire* left for Macao. On the 28th the French gunboat *Vipere* arrived from Macao, the British battleship *Glory* left for Shanghai and the French cruiser *Descartes* for Saigon.

Mr. J. J. Keswick presided at a general meeting of the Hongkong Benevolent Society held in the City Hall on the 29th ult. The report showed that 35 cases had received assistance from the Society during the year, and a child whom it had maintained and educated since 1895 had been sent home to its parents in England. Ninety-nine cases had received assistance at the Star Coffee House and the Salvation Army. The captain of the latter Home had, however, died during the year, and the Committee had deemed it best that the monthly allowance should be stopped, and the same given to the Star Coffee House where the Rev. J. H. France was doing a good work for the society. Work had been found in the colony for a number of applicants, and some, whose passages had been paid away, had written grateful letters of thanks, and in one case the money advanced had been refunded. The society had paid for the maintenance and education of four children who were destitute, and in many other ways had looked after the interests of the deserving poor. The Committee thanked the managers of the various steamship companies who had so kindly responded to their appeal for free or reduced passages for their applicants. During the year Lady Carrington and Mesdames Hawkins, Ritchie, Sachse, Atkinson and Douglas Jones had left the colony, and Mesdames Robertson, Swan, Thomson, and France had joined the Committee. The following ladies retired by rotation, and successfully offered themselves for re-election:—Mesdames Hoare, Goodman, Robertson, Siebs, Swan and France. On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Dr. Thomson, the report was adopted, as also were the accounts which showed a balance carried over from last year of \$2,336.95. Donations had been received amounting to \$1,132, and with the sum of \$68.27 interest made up a total income of \$3,537.22. Against that \$2,038.60 had been spent on applicant's relief, and printing \$27.55, leaving a balance carried over of \$1,471.07. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

Club Race No. 4 of the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club will take place on the 3rd February over course No. 4. The Race for the Navy Cup is postponed until the 9th February. The times, etc., are as previously notified.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough offered for competition on the 27th ult. 19 sites for the erection of booths and mat-sheds on the Government ground adjoining the Race Course on the occasion of the Race Meeting. Two lots were withdrawn and the rest fetched in the aggregate \$840, against \$945 last year.

At the meeting of shareholders in the Humphreys Estate and Finance Company on the 28th ult., Mr. Hart Buck (who presided) said—Gentlemen: Before proceeding with the business of this meeting it is my sad duty to refer with the deepest regret to the great national calamity that has fallen upon our Empire by the death of our beloved Sovereign. I am quite certain I echo the sentiments of every one of her subjects when I say that we felt for her not only the respect and veneration which we should naturally have for so distinguished a ruler, but that we had also a deep personal love which was inspired by the knowledge that Her Majesty was perfect as woman, as wife, and as mother.

The task of floating the sunken dredger, the *Canton River*, is proceeding as expeditiously as possible, though several unforeseen difficulties have arisen. It appears that the dredger possessed two deck-houses, one on each side, and when she capsized she forced the port deck house through the deck, making a large rent which it is necessary to repair. Several divers have been busily employed hermetically sealing down some of the hatchways, and in preparing places for receiving the coffer-dams which have been built for the purpose. The coffer-dams have been erected at the Praya Reclamation Works, and it is anticipated these will be placed in position during the week, and an attempt made to pump her out early next week. Lieutenant Litchfield, of H.M.S. *Terrible*, is superintending the diving operations, and is himself taking part in the diving.

Shortly before noon on the 25th ult. Chevalier Z. Volpicelli, Italian Consul-General, and three other prominent members of the Italian community, having obtained the permission of H.E. the Governor, placed at the foot of the Queen's Statue a large floral wreath, composed of white chrysanthemums and greenery, with a black silk ribbon bearing the words "The Italian Consul and Residents" in gold capitals. In the afternoon a second token of respect was placed at the foot of the statue in the shape of a large cross within a wreath, of white chrysanthemums on a green background, surmounted by a crown of roses and chrysanthemums. This was sent from the office of this journal and was tied with a bow of black silk ribbon with the words "Hongkong Daily Press" on it. During the present week there was placed at the foot of the statue a fresh wreath of white chrysanthemums with the inscription, in silver letters on black silk, "From a grateful Pensioner." The donor, we believe, is Mr. da Silva, late chief clerk of the Hongkong Post Office, who was in her late Majesty's Service for over twenty years and who is now enjoying a well-earnt pension.

An interesting ceremony took place on Thursday afternoon on the tennis-ground of the Naval Yard, Hongkong, when the Distinguished Service Order was bestowed on five members of His Majesty's Navy for gallant conduct in North China. Three sides of the tennis-ground were lined with bluejackets picked from the fleet, the Union Jack was erected in the centre, and a band was in attendance. Shortly after 2.30 p.m. Rear-Admiral Bruce, K.C.M.G., and Lady Bruce arrived, and were received by Commodore Powell, C.B. There were also present Mrs. Powell, Col. The O'Gorman and Madam O'Gorman, Mrs. Percy Scott, and a large gathering of naval officers. The recipients of the D.S.O. were Lieutenants Lowther-Crofton (H.M.S. *Centurion*), Carrington (H.M.S. *Alacrity*), Mackenzie (H.M.S. *Whiting*), and Phillipmore (H.M.S. *Barfleur*), and Engineer Cockey (H.M.S. *Centurion*), who came up in turn to have the decorations pinned on their breasts by Lady Bruce. While the gallant recipients were being congratulated by their friends a pleasant ceremony terminated by a general salute by the bluejackets and "God save the King" from the band.

The German cruiser *Kaiserin Augusta* arrived from Amoy on the 25th ult.

Owing to the death of the Queen, the Amateur Dramatic Club's projected performance next month of *His Excellency* has been cancelled.

A Chinese passenger on board the steamer *Hanoi* on Monday, the 28th ult. was accidentally caught by a rope and drawn into the winch. Before the machinery could be stopped the man was dead. The body was removed to the mortuary.

After the firing of the Accession Salute at 3.30 p.m. on the 25th ult. a party of some thirty prominent residents under the presidency of the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., drank the health of the new King and Queen at the Hongkong Club.

One would think that a communication addressed to the Postmaster-General, Hongkong, would be about the last to go astray, but one sent from Canton recently for this official was delivered at the Central Police Station by a Chinese letter-carrier.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Roast Meat Guild \$100

E. F. X. dos Santos Remedios 5

At the offices of the Public Works Department on Monday afternoon, Mr. G. J. W. King offered for sale one lot of Crown land at Quarry Bay. The purchasers were Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, who paid \$23,219 for the ground, which is simply an enclosure on their own land.

A slight outbreak of fire occurred on Tuesday 29th ult. shortly after noon in a dwelling house at 1, Shelley Street. The Fire Brigade, under the Captain Superintendent of Police (Hon. F. H. May) turned out, and were successful in subduing the outbreak before much damage had been done, the loss, which is not insured, amounting to only \$10. A carelessly exposed opium-lamp setting alight a mosquito-curtain and some bedding was the cause of the fire.

With the object of encouraging the members of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps to improve their shooting, His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.) has presented a handsome shield to the Corps to be competed for annually by teams of eight men from the different companies. On Wednesday, 30th ult. a meeting of officers commanding units and members of the different shooting committees was held at Headquarters for the purpose of considering and formulating rules under which the shield will be competed for.

A sequel to the recent troubles on H.M.S. *Barfleur* has come to our ears which certainly savours of despotic action on the part of the responsible authorities. There existed on board the *Barfleur* a "Mutual Improvement Society," to which a large number of the officers and men belonged, the object of which was to have weekly meetings for lectures, debates, etc. This has now been suppressed. It is a fact, we believe, that two of the men lately tried by court-martial were among the members, but so were some hundred others. Is mutual improvement then so dangerous?

Long before the service started at the Union Church on Sunday, the 27th ult., the building was crowded to its utmost capacity, and pew and aisle and gallery held their fullest complement of worshippers, even the verandas outside the church containing many who were unable to obtain seats in the Church. The opening voluntary was Chopin's "March Funèbre," and an impressive silence greeted alike this and Mrs. Mudie's magnificent rendering of Sullivan's "The Homeland." Afterwards in his sermon the Rev. J. G. Williams referred to the womanliness and purity of the late Queen's character, which impressed all who came into contact with her. The affection which she lavished on servant, as much as people, inspiring that most sincere tribute, which found voice in the expression her most Gracious Majesty, the nobility and purity of her character, which have purged our national life of much of its previous coarseness and immorality, and elevated the whole tone of public opinion—all had their origin, he urged, in the deep and fervent piety which was so manifest to all her people. At the close of the service Handel's "Dead March" in *Saul* was played, the congregation standing with bowed heads.

MISCELLANEOUS.

M. A. Conil, the Yokohama Agent of the Messageries Maritimes, has been created Chevalier of the Legion of Honour.

A series of cremations of members of the Siamese royal family began at Bangkok on the 14th ult. The ceremonies will extend into this month.

Steps are being taken on the Distillers' Guild in Tokyo to induce the Diet to vote against the proposed sake tax during the forthcoming Session of the Japanese Diet.

The qualified medical men of Bangkok have formed a Medical Association there. The aims of the Association are the advancement of medical science, and the protection of medical interests.

A Washington despatch to Paris, received on the 17th ult., stated that the United States were willing to exercise their good offices to secure a prompt retreat of the foreign troops from the neighbourhood of Peking.

The secretary of the French Consulate at Kobe accompanied by an interpreter proceeded to Takamatsu on the 18th ult. to inspect the locality of the wreck of the sunken transport *Caravane*.

Quite a number of changes have taken place recently in the office-staffs at the various branches of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. Mr. P. T. Koelle, accountant at Colombo, who was expected to return to Singapore, will remain in Ceylon, and Mr. R. M. Roe, who was to have succeeded him, proceeds to Calcutta.

On the arrival from China of the South Australian gunboat *Protector* at Brisbane in January, Captain Creswell relinquished command of the vessel in order to resume his duties as Naval Commandant in Queensland. The gunboat proceeded to Adelaide in charge of Captain Clare. The *Protector* for three months did useful service in Northern waters, for which her officers and crews have received the thanks of the Home Government.

Mr. W. Whiley, of the Sperry Flour Company, informed us on Monday, the 28th ult. that he had received a wire from the family of President McKinley, at Canton, Ohio, stating that the President had almost entirely recovered, news which will be received with great satisfaction by our readers. It will be remembered that one of Mr. Whiley's daughters married Paymaster Barber, one of President McKinley's nephews, whose lamented death we chronicled a month or two ago.

During the recent disturbance in China, horseshoe silver worth some 3,500,000 taels, together with some 500,000 koku of rice, fell into the hands of the Japanese troops at Tientsin, Peking and other places. According to news from Tokyo, the rice is being used to feed the troops in China and as wages for the Chinese coolies employed by the army. The horseshoe silver has been transmitted to Shanghai. The Government proposes to purchase gold bullion at Shanghai or bills on London with the silver.

We have received from the office of the *Kokumin Shimbun*, Tokyo, a beautifully printed Japanese calendar and a copy of the New Year's Day edition of the paper. The latter has a sixteen-page illustrated supplement on fine paper, which does the greatest credit to the office. The illustrations, some of which are printed in red, are of a high order artistically, and encourage the hope that Japan is not forgetting her old culture entirely under the stress of modern civilisation. On the bulk of the letterpress we are unfortunately unable to express an opinion, but we can bear witness to the merits of the printing.

The 23rd ult. was the "santo" or natal day of Alfonso XIII. of Spain. The day is usually a gala one in Manila, but this year it had hardly commenced (records the local *Times*) when the sad news was received of the death of Queen Victoria, when all the flags which had been displayed to announce the festal day were half-masted, and many of the functions arranged for the occasion were postponed out of respect to the memory of Her Majesty. The Spanish Press all over the world is loud in its acclamations of the boy King, who will be 15 years of age on the 17th May next. It is expected that he will assume the reins of government next year.

The launch *Rochester* on the 24th ult. brought down to Manila forty-five prisoners from Muntinlupa and four from Los Baños. Among the prisoners from Muntinlupa was the noted Captain Bautista.

The Italian Government has thanked Japan for the services rendered by the Red Cross Society in receiving the sick and wounded troops of the Allies in the Society's hospitals during the recent war in North China.

The American steamer *Kongsee*, chartered by the U.S. Government from Warner, Barnes & Co., has arrived at Manila, having on board about 300 native prisoners from Santa Cruz and the Island of Marinduque, part of whom will in all probability be furnished with transportation to Guam.

Seattle is rejoicing, says a New York commercial paper, over the report that the American-Hawaiian Steamship Company, of New York, has made Puget Sound the Pacific Coast end of the line of big steamers running between its home ports and ports on the Pacific. Heretofore the steamer service between Seattle and the islands has been irregular, and, as a consequence, merchants on Puget Sound have been handicapped in their efforts to compete with San Francisco for the trade of Hawaii. Now they are placed on an equal footing. Honolulu will be the principal port of call.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 19th January.—Tsatees.—No settlements are reported. Re-reels.—About 50 bales of Nos. 1 and 2 Grant-reel are said to have been settled at \$600 to \$650. Filatures.—The lower prices asked by the dealers brought forward a good many buyers, and settlements for the fortnight for Lyons amount to about 2,000 bales. Stocks being heavy and most of the dealers under pressure to sell and eager sellers, prices hardly kept their own, and the market closes rather weak. From prices paid the following quotations may be made:—\$755 for Miu King Lun 11/13, \$750 for Kwong Shun Cheong 11/13, \$740 for Miu King Lun and Kwong Shun Cheong 13/15, and Kwong Shun Hang 11/13, \$730 for Kwong King Cheong 9/11, \$720 for Kwong Pou Kee 9/11, Kwong Yuen Hang 11/13, and Kai Sun Cheong and Kwong Shun Ching 13/15, \$710 for Meen Cheong 11/13 and U Hau Cheong 10/12, \$720 for Kai Lun Cheong 9/11, and King Shing's Gold Lion 16/18, \$395 for Miu Wo Cheong and Miu Tai Cheong 10/12, \$680 for Hing Loong Cheong, Kwong Lun On, Kwong Wo On, Lai Sang Wo, Man Po Lun, Kwong Pou Kee, Kwong Wo Sing and Yut Cheong Wo 10/12 and King Lun Sang 11/13, \$670 for Kwong Sing Lun 10/12, \$660 for Miu Wa Lun and Po Wa Lun 11/13, \$647 for Hip Wo Hing 11/13, \$630 for Yeo Wo Lun and Soey Wo Cheong 11/13, and \$620 to \$310 for Good No. 3, 11/13. Short-reels.—Have been in little enquiry. From prices paid we quote: \$715 to \$710 for Han King Lon 14/16 and Yu King 14/16. Waste.—Quiet and rather weak. Appended are quotations in Canton, with laying down cost in London and Lyons, Exchange 4 months' sight, 2/1, and Fes. 2.65 per Dollar.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 1st February.—Still no supplies have come forward.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 1st February.—The upward tendency continues, market being very brisk. Quotations are:—

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|------|
| Shekloong, No. 1, White..... | \$8.15 to \$8.20 | pcd. |
| do. 2, White..... | 7.35 to 7.40 | " |
| Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ... | 5.10 to 5.45 | " |
| do. 2, Brown ... | 5.30 to 5.85 | " |
| Swatow, No. 1, White..... | 8.10 to 8.15 | " |
| do. 1, White..... | 7.25 to 7.30 | " |
| Swatow, No. 1, Brown ... | 5.30 to 5.35 | " |
| do. 2, Brown ... | 5.20 to 5.25 | " |
| Foochow Sugar Candy | 12.20 to 12.25 | " |
| Shekloong | 10.50 to 11.00 | " |

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Nippon Maru*, sailed on the 12th January. For San Francisco:—110 pkgs. tea, 10 cases silk. For Chamerries:—3 cases silk. For La Libertad:—2 cases silk. For Panama:—13 cases silk. For Guayaquil 5 cases silk. For New York:—20 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Manche*, sailed on the 17th Jan. For Marseilles: - 4 bales waste silk, 5 cases silks. For Lyons: - 20 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Achilles*, sailed on the 18th Jan. For Liverpool: - 4,050 bales hemp, 1,000 bags rice, 2 cases cigars, 10 pkgs. sundries. For London: - 740 bales hemp. For New York: - 3 bales hemp.

Per steamer *R. Morrow*, sailed on the 17th January. For New York: - 5 cases Chinaware, 15 cases straw cuffs, 60 cases brushes, 100 bales canes, 148 bales strawbraid, 199 cases black-woodware, 200 casks soy, 256 pkgs. rattan chairs, 259 rolls matting, 623 cases preserves, 700 cases joss sticks, 855 bales rattancore, 1,500 cases camphor, 1,860 cases fans, 2,650 bales cassia, 8,899 pkgs. crackers.

Per steamer *Sambia*, sailed on the 18th Jan. For Havre: - 3 cases bristles, 4 pkgs. tin, 5 cases copperware, 8 cases blackwoodware, 8 cases camphor, 14 cases woodware, 17 cases human hair, 24 cases Chinaware, 86 rolls mats, 539 pkgs. tea. For Bordeaux: - 441 pkgs. matting. For Havre and/or Hamburg: - 10 cases human hair, 33 rolls matting, 112 bales feathers, 198 pkgs. tea. For Hamburg: - 1 case China ink, 3 cases gongs, 6 cases sundries, 20 cases essential oil, 2 cases palm bark, 20 cases palmleafans, 100 cases staranised, 100 bales galangal, 110 bales broken cassia. For Antwerp: - 69 cases sundries.

Per P. & O. steamer *Chusan*, sailed on the 19th January. For Liverpool: - 1 case silk handkerchief. For Manchester: - 11 bales waste silk. For London: - 100 bales waste silk opt. Manchester, 504 rolls mats, 10 pkgs. tea, 3 cases cigars, 2 boxes effects, 4 pkgs. brass goods, 1 cases curios, 3 cases cigars from Manila. For Milan: - 20 bales raw silk. For Lyons: - 1,189 bales raw silk, 1 case silks. For Marseilles: - 509 bales raw silk, 25 bales waste silk, 6 cases silks, 1 case curios. For Gibraltar: - 1 case curios.

Per steamer *Norderney*, sailed on the 14th January. For Marseilles: - 25 cases staranised. For Marseilles and/or Havre: - 10 cases human hair. For Havre: - 2 cases China ink, 6 cases human hair, 18 cases blackwoodware, 70 cases Chinaware, 125 cases staranised, 40 bales canes, 756 rolls mats. For Havre and/or Hamburg: - 4 bales tea mats, 10 bales canes, 11 cases blackwoodware, 35 cases human hair, 100 cases staranised, 200 bales feathers. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London: - 25 cases bristles, 100 cases staranised, 190 bales feathers. For Hamburg: - 2 cases Chinaware, 3 cases blackwoodware, 6 cases sundries, 18 cases human hair, 32 cases palmleafans, 119 bales canes, 220 bales feathers, 330 cases staranised, 342 rolls mats. For Hamburg and/or Antwerp: - 100 cases bristles. For Hamburg and/or London: - 100 cases canes. For Bremen: - 21 cases private effects. For Amsterdam: - 250 pkgs. preserves. For Rotterdam: - 25 cases staranised. For Lisbon: - 15 cases Chinaware.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 1st February.—Malwa.—Remained quiet. A small business was done at last quotations. New at \$810, Old at \$820/\$830.

Bengal.—In consequence of the sharp decline in silver exchange values improved considerably. We close Patna at \$895 and Benares at \$897.

Tejan.—Superior drug was sold at \$825 per picul.

STOCK.

| | |
|---------|-------|
| Patna | 1,522 |
| Benares | 374 |
| Malwa | 947 |
| Persian | 2,861 |

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 1st February.—Moderate sales with a slight decline. Stock about 1,200 bales.

Bombay, \$2.00 to 22.50 picul

Bengal (New), Rangoon, 22.50 to 23.75

and Dacca, " " "

Shanghai and Japanese, 24.00 to 25.50

Tungchow and Ningpo, 24.00 to 25.50

Sale: 550 bales.

YAEN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, February 1st.—Nothing of interest has occurred in our market during the past fortnight. A quiet but steady business has been experienced, and some 8,100 bales have gone into consumption on the basis of late quotations. The demand continued to favour special superior tickets which comprise the bulk of the settlements. Excepting a few trifling fluctuations here and there, values show little or no appreciation, notwithstanding the heavy decline in exchange, as importers having in view the near approach of the native holidays were anxious to make the most of the demand while it lasted. At the close the market has again become quiet, and it would now appear as if the business of this native year has almost come to an end pending the revival for clearance after China New Year (19th instant).

Local Manufacture:—Sales of about 450 bales No. 10s. and 12s. of the Hongkong S. W. and Dyeing Mills, at from \$89 to \$88 and \$91 to \$90 respectively, are reported.

Japanese Spinnings:—New business is impracticable in the continued absence of supplies, but we hear that the market in Japan has declined in sympathy with American Cotton there and some forward contracts, aggregating 500 bales on the basis of \$110 for Setsu No. 20s., are reported.

Raw Cotton:—The market for Indian cotton continues to drag with no real improvement in the demand, and rates for almost all descriptions are easier. The local Mill is entirely out of the market. Sales reported are some 487 bales Bengal at from \$22 to \$23, leaving a stock of about 1,600 bales. China descriptions are steady, and about 300 bales Ningpo and Shanghai have changed hands at \$25. Unsold stock about 500 bales. Quotations are \$18 to \$23 Bengal and \$23 to \$25 China.

Exchange on India shows a heavy decline of 4 points and closes weak to-day at Es. 149 for T/T Rs. 149 for Post. On Shanghai 72 $\frac{1}{2}$ and on Yokohama 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent discount.

The undenoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ending 27th ultimo, viz:—

Indian:—Total sales 3,752 bales, comprising 978 bales No. 20s., 710 bales No. 16s., 380 bales No. 12s. and 1,684 bales No. 10s., prices showing little or no change, notwithstanding the decline in exchange, and market closing steady. Estimated unsold stock about 21,000 bales.

Japanese:—Total sales about 1,000 bales on the basis of Tls. 76 to 78 for No. 16s., and Tls. 78 to 81 for No. 20s., prices showing no change and market closing unsteady. Stock nil.

Local:—Total sales about 2,700 bales on the basis of Tls. 67 to 71 for No. 10s., Tls. 74 to 76 for No. 14s., and Tls. 79 to 81 for No. 16s., market closing firm.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 1st February:—The prices are further advancing, market being brisk. Quotations are:—

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Saigon, Ordinary | \$2.85 to 2.90 |
| " Round, Good quality | 3.05 to 3.10 |
| " Long | 3.20 to 3.25 |
| Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 | 2.95 to 3.00 |
| " Garden, " No. 1 | 3.30 to 3.35 |
| " White | 3.85 to 3.90 |
| " F no Cargo | 4.65 to 4.70 |

COALS.

HONGKONG, 1st February.—Small sales of Japanese at quotations:—

Cardiff, \$29.00 sellers ex ship
Australian, \$14.00 to \$14.50 ex godown, nominal
Yubari Lump, \$11.00 ex godown, nominal

Miiki Lump, \$10.
Moji Lump, \$7.00 to \$9.50 ex ship, steady
Hongay double } 10.50 ex godown } screened

Hongay Lump, 8.50 ex ship nominal
Hongay Dust, 5.50 " Briquettes, 14.50 ex godown

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 1st February.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YAEN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn: 1,300 bales No. 10 at \$86 to \$91, 750 bales No. 12 at \$90 to \$94.50, 100 bales No. 16 at \$96 to \$101, 1,550 bales No. 20 at \$98 to \$110. White Shirtings: 500 pieces 455 Tree and Elephant. Raw Cotton: 100 bales Ningpo at \$2.00. Long Elle: 125 pieces purple green Stag at \$7.25.

COTTON YARN.

| | per bale |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s. | \$79.00 to \$112.00 |
| English—Nos. 16 to 24. | 114.00 to 120.00 |
| " 22 to 24. | 120.00 to 128.00 |
| " 28 to 32. | 136.00 to 142.00 |
| " 38 to 42. | 155.00 to 170.00 |

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

| | per piece |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. | 2.15 to 2.25 |
| 7 lbs. | 2.40 to 2.55 |
| 8.4 lbs. | 2.90 to 3.60 |
| 9 to 10 lbs. | 3.70 to 4.50 |
| White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. | 2.60 to 2.80 |
| 58 to 60 " | 3.25 to 4.05 |
| 64 to 66 " | 4.30 to 5.55 |
| Fine | 5.20 to 7.90 |
| Book-folds. | 4.40 to 6.30 |
| Victoria Lawns—12 yards. | 0.78 to 1.60 |
| T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. | 1.75 to 1.90 |
| 7 lbs. (32 ") | 2.00 to 2.25 |
| 6 lbs. (32 ") | 1.95 to 2.20 |
| 7 lbs. (32 ") | 2.85 to 3.70 |
| 8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.) | 2.90 to 3.60 |
| Drills, English—40yds. 14 to 16 lbs. | 4.25 to 7.10 |

FANCY COTTONS.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Turkey Red Shirtings—11 to 16 lbs. | 1.55 to 5.00 |
| Brocades—Dyed | — to — |
| Chintzes—Assorted | 0.08 to 0.17 |
| Velvets—Black, 22 in. | 0.22 to 0.60 |
| Velveteens—18 in. | 0.20 to 0.22 |

WOOLENS.

| | per yard |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Spanish Stripes—Sundry chocks | 0.80 to 1.50 |
| Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths | 1.25 to 2.50 |
| per piece | |
| Long Ells—Scarlet | 6.40 to 10.00 |
| Assorted | 6.50 to 10.10 |
| Camlets—Assorted | 12.50 to 32.00 |
| Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches | 8.00 to 20.00 |
| Assorted | |
| Orleans—Plain | 8.50 to 10.00 |
| Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. | 4.00 to 18.00 |

METALS.

| | per picul |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Iron—Nail Rod | 4.15 to — |
| Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.) | 4.15 to — |
| Swedish Bar | 7.50 to — |
| Small Round Rod | 4.50 to — |
| Hoop 1 to 1/2 in. | 4.75 to — |
| Wire 15/25 | 8.80 to — |
| Old Wire Rope | 2.50 to — |
| Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop | 10.40 to — |
| Australian | 10.00 to — |
| Yellow M'tal—Muntz | 14/20 oz. 41.00 to — |
| Vivian's | 14/20 oz. 40.25 to — |
| Elliot's | 14/20 oz. 40.25 to — |
| New Chops | 14/20 oz. to — |
| Composition Nails | 63.00 to — |
| Japan Copper, Slabs | 43.00 to — |
| Tin | 61.00 to — |
| Tin-Plates | 6.25 to — |
| Steel 1/4 to 1/2 | 5.50 to — |

SUNDRIES.

FOR AUSTRALIA.—*Kasuga Maru* (str.), *Changsha* (str.).
FOR PORTLAND, O.—*Monmouthshire* (str.).
FOR SAN DIEGO.—*Kvarren* (str.).
FOR BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—*Yamaguchi Maru* (str.).
FOR SINGAPORE PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—*Suisang* (str.).

VERNON & SMYTH'S SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 1st February.—The market continues active and rates rule steady to strong. Settlements on the 31st ultimo, which were rather heavier than usual, passed off satisfactorily.

BANKS remain quiet with only small cash sales at 350 per cent. premium and forward at 364 for April. London rate remains at £62. Nationals unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have changed hands at \$55. Unions are still enquired for in a small way at \$245. No business in the Northern Insurances to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs continue on offer at \$315 without inducing sales. Chinas have been placed at \$82.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos have ruled quiet at \$35 with sellers and only small sales. This Company's report just published recommends payment of a dividend of \$1.20 and Bonus of 30 cents per share, writing off steamers, &c., \$40,000, placing to equalisation dividend fund \$50,000, carrying forward \$51,580.55 and transferring from investment fluctuation fund the sum of \$70,000 to equalisation dividend fund, which latter will then stand at \$150,000, while the former account will still have a sum of \$161,753.68 to the credit. Indos have ruled erratic with sales at from \$111 to \$109 cash, and at \$112 to \$114 for April; market closes firmer with buyers at \$110. Douglasses remain neglected at quotation with sellers and no sales. China Manilas unchanged, also China Mutuals.

REFINEERIES.—Chin Sugars have advanced to \$122 after small sales at \$115, \$117 and \$120. Luzons are on offer at \$40 after small sales.

MINING.—The market under this heading is very dull and with the exception of small sales of Punjoms at \$3½ and \$3¾, and Jelebus at quotation, there is no business to report.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have still further improved to 63 per cent. premium, with a fair business cash, and at higher than the usual equivalent rates forward. Sales are reported at \$635 and \$640 for March, \$645 for April and \$675 and \$680 for August. Market closes steady at 630 per cent. premium. Kowloon Wharves after small sales at \$89 have improved to \$90½, at which latter rate they close steady. Wanchais are still enquired for at quotation without bringing out any shares.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands weakened somewhat over settlements, when small sales were effected at \$198 cash and at \$204 for March; at time of closing, however, shares are not obtainable under \$199. Hotels have been placed at \$125 cash and at \$128 for March closing with sellers. West Points are neglected at quotations. Humphreys have been placed at \$12½ closing at \$13 with sellers.

COTTONS.—Hongkongs have been placed at quotation. In the absence of local business the Northern Mills are quoted from the latest Shanghai Circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Cements have changed hands at \$20 and \$19½. Watsons at \$16. China Providents at \$9½, and Fenwicks at \$59. Ices have been on offer at \$78 without inducing sales. The General Managers of this company recommend the payment of a final dividend of \$10, making a total of \$12 for the year 1900.

MEMOS.—Ordinary Yearly Meeting Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company on 5th instant. Transfer Books closed on 23rd January. Ordinary Yearly Meeting Kowloon Land, &c., Co. on 7th instant. Ordinary Annual Meeting Hongkong Ice Co., on 11th February. Transfer Books closed on 1st instant. Ordinary Half-Yearly Meeting Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on 16th instant. Transfer Books close to-day. Ordinary Yearly Meeting Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. on 25th instant. Transfer Books close on 14th instant.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:—

| COMPANY. | PAID UP. | QUOTATIONS. |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| Banks— | | |
| Hongkong & Shai. | \$125 | [\$562]. |
| China & Japan, ordy. | £4 | £1. |
| Do. deferred | £1 | £5 5s. |
| Natl. Bank of China | | |
| A. Shares | £8 | \$27, buyers |
| B. Shares | £8 | \$27, buyers |
| Foun. Shares | £1 | \$20. |
| Bell's Asbestos E. A. | £1 | \$1, buyers |
| Campbell, Moore & Co. | \$10 | \$20. |
| China Prov. L. & M. | \$10 | \$94, sellers |
| China Sugar | \$100 | \$122, buyers |
| Cotton Mills— | | |
| Ewo | Tls. 100 | Tls. 50. |
| International | Tls. 100 | Tls. 45. |
| Laot Kung Mow | Tls. 100 | Tls. 65. |
| Soychee | Tls. 500 | Tls. 325, buyers |
| Yahloong | Tls. 100 | Tls. 50. |
| Hongkong | \$100 | \$15. |
| Dairy Farm | \$8 | 37. |
| Fenwick & Co., Geo. | £25 | \$59, sellers |
| Green Island Cement | \$10 | \$10½, sellers |
| H. & C. Bakery | £50 | \$55, sales |
| Hongkong & C. Gas | £10 | \$118, buyers |
| Hongkong Electric | £10 | \$12½, sellers |
| H. H. L. Tramways | \$100 | \$84, sellers |
| Hk. Steam Water-boat Co., Ltd. | £5 | \$5. |
| Hongkong Hotel | \$50 | \$125, sellers |
| Hongkong Ice | \$25 | \$178, sellers |
| H. & K. Wharf & G. | \$50 | \$90½, buyers |
| Hongkong Rope | \$50 | \$170, sellers |
| H. & W. Dock | \$125 | 630 p. ct. prem. = |
| Insurance— | | |
| Canton | \$50 | \$150, sales |
| China Fire | \$20 | \$82, buyers |
| China Traders' | £25 | \$56, sellers |
| Hongkong Fire | \$50 | \$315, sellers |
| North-China | £25 | Tls. 180. |
| Straits | \$20 | \$1. |
| Union | \$50 | \$245, buyers |
| Yangtze | \$80 | \$115, sales |
| Land and Building— | | |
| Hongkong Land Inv. | \$100 | \$199, sellers |
| Humphreys Estate | \$10 | \$13, ex div. |
| Kowloon Land & B. | \$30 | \$28, buyers |
| West Point Building | \$50 | \$49. |
| Luzon Sugar | \$100 | \$40, sellers |
| Mining— | | |
| Charbonnages | Fcs. 250 | \$325, sellers |
| Gt. Estn. & C'donian | \$3 | 5 cents |
| Do. Preference | £1 | 40 cents |
| Jelebu | £5 | \$6, sales |
| Queen's Mines Ltd. | 25c. | 7 cents, sellers |
| Olivers Mines, A. | £5 | \$2, sellers |
| Do. B. | £4 | \$1.10. |
| Punjom | £8 | \$3½, sellers |
| Do. Preference | £1 | \$1.20. |
| Raubs | 18 | \$47, sellers |
| New Amoy Dock | £63 | \$214, buyers |
| Oriente Hotel Co., Ltd. | £50 | \$80, sellers |
| Steamship Cos.— | | |
| China and Manila | £50 | \$72, sellers |
| China Mutual Pref. | £20 | \$41, sellers |
| China Ordinary | £10 | £12, buyers |
| Do. | £5 | £7, buyers |
| Douglas Steamship | £50 | \$16, sellers |
| H. Canton and M. | £15 | \$35. |
| Indo-China S. N. | £10 | \$110, buyers |
| Shell Transport and Trading Co. | £1 | £3. 4s. |
| Star Ferry | £10 | £20½, sellers |
| Tebrau Planting Co. | £5 | £6½, sellers |
| United Asbestos | £4 | £7½, buyers |
| D. | £10 | \$20. |
| Wanchai Warehouse | £37½ | \$63, buyers |
| Watkins, Ltd. | £10 | £12½, sellers |
| Watson & Co., A. S. | £10 | \$16, sales |
| Universal Trading Co., Ltd. | £5 | £5½, sellers |
| Cigar Companies— | | |
| Alhambra, Limited. | \$500 | \$1,500, buyers |
| La Commercial, Ltd. | \$500 | \$1,000. |
| Hensiana, Limited.. | \$100 | \$105, sellers |
| La Favorita, Ltd. | \$500 | \$700, sellers |

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 1st February.
EXCHANGE.

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| ON LONDON.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 1/11½ |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 1/11½ |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight | 2/0 1/2 |
| Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight | 2/0 1/2 |
| Credits, at 4 months' sight | 2/0 1/2 |
| Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight | 2/0 1/2 |
| ON PARIS.— | |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 2.50 |
| Credits, 4 months' sight | 2.56 |
| ON GERMANY.— | |
| On demand | 2.04 |
| ON NEW YORK.— | |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 48 |
| Credits, 60 days' sight | 49 |
| ON BOMBAY.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 149 |
| Bank, on demand | 149 |
| ON CALCUTTA.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 149 |
| Bank, on demand | 149 |
| ON SHANGHAI.— | |
| Bank, at sight | 72½ |
| Private, 30 days' sight | 73½ |
| ON YOKOHAMA.— | |
| On demand | 1½ p. c. pm. |
| ON MANILA.— | |
| On demand | 1½ p. c. pm. |
| ON SINGAPORE.— | |
| On demand | 1 p. c. pm. |
| ON BATAVIA.— | |
| On demand | 119 |
| ON HAIPHONG.— | |
| On demand | 2 p. c. pm. |
| ON SAIGON.— | |
| On demand | 1½ p. c. pm. |
| ON BANGKOK.— | |
| On demand | 60 |
| SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate | 2.95 |
| GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael | 51.75 |
| BAR SILVER per oz. | 27½ |

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 1st February.—The freight market continues in about the same condition as last reported, with a fair amount of business on record. From Saigon to this, 18 cents per picul firm; to Philippines, 35 cents per picul firm; to Java, 32 cents per picul. Phillipines to Hongkong, 17½ cents per picul is obtainable. Java to this, 25 cents per picul. Bangkok to Hongkong, 30 and 25 cents per picul. Coal freights.—Moji to Manila, several steamers have been closed at \$4.50 per ton; to Hongkong, no demand for prompt steamers and the rate is nominally \$1.10 to Singapore, \$2.50 per ton. Sailing vessels.—The American bark *Adolph Obrig* has been chartered to load here for Baltimore, May clearance, private terms.

The following are the settlements:—

Adolph Obrig—American bark, 1,376 tons, hence to Baltimore, private terms.

Wineland—Danish steamer, 1,668 tons, Moji to Sourabaya, \$4 per ton.

Charles Rogier—Belgian steamer, 1,556 tons, Moji to three ports Philippines, \$5.50 per ton.

Mogul—British steamer, 2,854 tons, Karatzu to Manila, \$4.50 per ton.

Reynolds—British steamer, 2,083 tons, Mororan or Otaru to Hongkong, \$4 per ton.

Oro—British steamer, 2,417 tons, Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Elsa—German steamer, 1,692 tons, three trips, Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.75, option Canton, \$2.30 per ton.

Taiju—German steamer, 1,065 tons, hence to Saigon and back, \$5,250 in full.

Amigo—German steamer, 822 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17½ cents per picul.

Decima—German steamer, 794 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.

Taiju—German steamer, 1,035 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.

Canton—British steamer, 1,110 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.

China—German steamer, 1,271 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.

Sullberg—German steamer, 782 tons, Saigon to Cebu, 35 cents per picul.

Picciola—German steamer, 875 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 35 cents per picul.

Tetarto—German steamer, 1,812 tons, Saigon to Philippines, one port 35 cents, two ports 38 cents per picul.

Else—German steamer, 903 tons, monthly, 10 months, \$9,000 per month.

Taiju—German steamer, 1,065 tons, monthly, 12 months, \$8,250 per month.

Quarta—German steamer, 1,146 tons, monthly, 12 months, \$9,000 per month.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

January— ARRIVALS.

25, Belgian King, Brit. str., from S. Francisco.
 25, Macduff, British str., from Moji.
 26, Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
 26, Eastern, British str., from Manila.
 26, Canton, British str., from Wuhu.
 26, Decima, German str., from Saigon.
 26, Lienshing, British str., from Chinkiang.
 26, Monmouthshire, Brit. str., from Portland.
 26, Moyune, British str., from Liverpool.
 26, Akashi Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
 26, America Maru, Jap. str., from S. Francisco.
 26, Hating, Fr. str., from Kwongchow-wan.
 26, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 26, Indus, French str., from Yokohama.
 26, Descartes, French cruiser, from Macao.
 27, Kwanglee, British str., from Canton.
 27, Ching Ping, German str., from Canton.
 27, Kingsing, British str., from Canton.
 27, Eridan, French str., from Saigon.
 27, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
 27, Hsinchi, British str., from Shanghai.
 27, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
 28, Guthrie, British str., from Kobe.
 28, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
 28, Kutsang, British str., from Sourabaya.
 28, Whiting, British torp.-bt., from Shanghai.
 28, Vipere, French gunboat, from Macao.
 28, Chigwell, British str., from Balik Papan.
 28, Diamante, British str., from Manila.
 28, Fausang, British str., from Java.
 28, Hikosan Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 28, Mongkut, German str., from Bangkok.
 28, Cebu, American str., from Iloilo.
 28, Pronto, German str., from Saigon.
 29, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
 29, Kashing, British str., from Wuhu.
 29, Maria Teresa, Austrian str., from Bombay.
 29, Ningpo, British str., from Hongay.
 29, Sibiria, German str., from Hamburg.
 29, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
 29, Tsintau, German str., from Swatow.
 29, Machev, German str., from Bangkok.
 29, Albenga, German str., from New York.
 29, St. Paul, Amr. ship, from New York.
 29, Foon Moon, German str., from Canton.
 29, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
 29, Centurion, British battleship, from Woosung.
 30, Dajin Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
 30, Yamaguchi Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 30, Hailoong, British str., from Pakhoi.
 30, Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
 30, Pax, Belgian str., from Manila.
 30, Ariel, Norwegian str., from Canton.
 31, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
 31, Peninsular, British str., from Shanghai.
 31, Amiral Charnier, Fr. g.-bt., from Nagasaki.
 31, Lienshing, British str., from Canton.
 31, Tientsin, British str., from Singapore.

February—

1, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 1, Deucalion, British str., from Singapore.
 1, Else, German str., from Shanghai.
 1, Canton, British str., from Canton.
 1, Hsinchi, British str., from Canton.
 1, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
 1, Adamastor, Portuguese cr., from Macao.
 1, Siam, British str., from Bangkok.
 1, Bingo Maru, Jap str., from London.

January— DEPARTURES.

26, Yoriuine Maru, Jap. str., for Keelung.
 26, Elza, German str., for Hongay.
 26, Tri-tonia, British str., for Swatow.
 26, Independent, German str., for Swatow.
 26, Ixion, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Tategami Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
 26, Foochow, British str., for Moji.
 26, C. Apear, British str., for Calcutta.
 26, Loongmoou, German str., for Shanghai.
 26, Anping, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Lienshing, British str., for Canton.
 27, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 27, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 27, Holsatia, German str., for Yokohama.
 27, Benalder, British str., for Straits.
 26, Mohawk, British cruiser, for England.
 27, Zaire, Portuguese g.-bt., for Macao.
 27, Clam, British str., for Singapore.
 27, Pakshan, British str., for Amoy.
 27, Clara, German str., for Hoihow.
 27, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 27, Canton, British str., for Canton.
 27, Eridan, French str., for Shanghai.

28, Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
 28, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 28, Malacca, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, Commerce, Amr. sch., for Port Townsend.
 28, Glory, British battleship, for Shanghai.
 28, Descartes, French cruiser, for Saigon.
 28, Indus, French str., for Europe.
 28, Hong Bee, British str., for Amoy.
 28, Shantung, British str., for Amoy.
 29, Coptic, British str., for San Francisco.
 29, Kingsing, British str., for Swatow.
 29, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 29, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
 29, Adato, British str., for Portland (Or.).
 29, Kashing, British str., for Canton.
 29, Taifu, German str., for Saigon.
 29, Precioila, German str., for Saigon.
 29, Amigo, German str., for Saigon.
 29, Hating, French str., for Hoihow.
 29, Hanoi, Fr. str., for Kwongchow-wan.
 29, Taishun, Amr. str., for Shanghai.
 29, Haimun, British str., for Shanghai.
 30, Ching Ping, German str., for Shanghai.
 30, Albenga, German str., for Shanghai.
 30, Akashi Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 30, Hikosan Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 30, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
 30, Chigwell, British str., for Balik Papan.
 30, Ningpo, British str., for Shanghai.
 30, Moyune, British str., for Seattle.
 30, Diamante, British str., for Manila.
 31, Vipere, French gunboat, for Canton.
 31, Decima, German str., for Saigon.
 31, Keongwai, German str., for Bangkok.
 31, Ariel, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
 31, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
 31, Kwanglee, British str., for Shanghai.
 31, Guthrie, British str., for Sydney.
 31, Hangchow, British str., for Moji.

February—

1, Tsintau, German str., for Bangkok.
 1, Germania, German str., for Singapore.
 1, Sibiria, German str., for Yokohama.
 1, Pronto, German str., for Saigon.
 1, Else, German str., for Canton.
 1, Maria Teresa, Aust. str., for Shanghai.
 1, Dunav, Austrian str., for Chefoo.
 1, Olympia, British str., for Tacoma.
 1, Eastern, British str., for Shanghai.
 1, Volute, British str., for Manila.
 1, Lienshing, British str., for Shanghai.
 1, Hailoong, British str., for Haiphong.
 1, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 1, Nercus, German ship, for Portland (Or.).
 1, Yamaguchi Maru, Jap. str., for Bombay.
 1, Barfleur, British battleship, for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Monmouthshire, from Portland, Mrs. and Miss Kennedy, Mr. Cox.

Per Eastern, from Sydney, &c., Mr. Justice, and Mrs. Gaunt, Mr. and Mrs. S. Dickinson, and Misses Dickinson, Messrs. N. R. Dickinson, S. Stead, B. L. Packer, Satow, F. Webster, W. R. Cruickshank, J. McDonald, F. G. Veitch, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. de Vasconcellos, Mr. and Mrs. Alberto Carlos, Mr. L. M. Cordeiro, Mr. V. Gonsalves, Mr. and Mrs. Conceição, Mr. F. X. de Barros, Mrs. and Miss Celso, Mrs. Williams and child, Mrs. F. H. Barnes, Mr. C. A. Johnstone, Mr. J. M. Gillette, Mr. J. B. Rivero and Mrs. Suga.

Per Hating, from Kwongchow-wan, Mr. Johnson.

Per Hsinchi, from Shanghai, Messrs. McInnes and Coultan.

Per Esmeralda, from Manila, Messrs. Stearin and O'Brien, Capt. Robins and Mr. L. O'osco.

Per Eridan, from Saigon, for Shanghai, Mr. Saint Pierre; for Yokohama, Mrs. de Liege.

Per Indus, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Messrs. Felix Donce, V. D. Fernandez, Felix Margori and Jean Almachur; from Shanghai, Messrs. A. H. Adams, A. Tabbah, A. Stewart, Krochel, de Cruz and W. Lamond.

Per America Maru, from San Francisco, &c., Messrs. E. O. Ballin and S. D. Bradford, Mrs. C. C. Carpenter, Mr. W. A. Fritz, Comdr. F. P. Gilmore, Mrs. M. E. Haskell, Miss K. L. Haskell, Miss F. A. Haskell, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Jenks, Messrs. W. D. Lyon, J. L. Manning, A. Montague, R. Mac Dougall, H. Perkins, Capt. Stein, Messrs. F. A. Sherman and Geo. Sutherland, Capt. Molas, Mr. J. F. Wilson and Miss Numata Kisa.

Per Guthrie, from Kobe, for Australia, Mr. Sinclair.

Per Diamante, from Manila, Messrs. Little, Escanillio and S. Quartero.

Per St. Paul, from New York, Messrs. Albert Whitter and Henry Ammon.

Per Maria Teresa, from Bombay, &c., Mr. Karman.

Per Teintau, from Swatow, Mrs. and Misses Laugachwart.

Per Suisang, from Calcutta, &c., Mrs. Angus, Major Brown, Lieuts. Lyall, Freeland, Turner and Mr. Carnie.

Per Kaifong, from Cebu, Mr. G. Rowand; from Iloilo, Capt. Sutherland.

Per Thales, from Swatow, Rev. G. Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. Thomson.

Per Peninsular, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Messrs. H. O'Neil, L. Jacmin, C. L. Johnson, L. Priestley, J. V. Remedios and Stanley; for Bombay, Capt. H. L. Richardson and Lieut.-Col. Day; for Marseilles, Mr. A. Bellan and Miss C. Littler; for London, Capt. O. Rowsell, Capt. J. Ellis, Mr. S. Wilkinson, Mrs. Reynell and infant and Mr. J. J. Hatch; from Yokohama, for London, Mr. C. H. Allen.

DEPARTED.

Per Wakasa Maru, for London, &c., Dr. C. J. Fitzgerald, Messrs. W. MacFarlane, A. E. Hollings, Misses Helen Batchelor and Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Bell, two daughters and infant, Mr. A. J. Reeks, Capt. J. A. de Fonte Pereira Mello, Messrs. T. H. Wild, J. C. MacQueen, Niclau, Mr. and Mrs. Dunlop and one daughter, Messrs. Baulter, McNeil, Mr. and Mrs. H. Owen and child, Messrs. J. T. Isaac, E. H. Chapman, H. Moss, H. Narabayashi, Mr. and Mrs. Schultz and child, Mr. and Mrs. Panachkaraki and child, Misses Panachkaraki (two), Messrs. Brockhurst, P. R. Silverlock, G. H. Walker, D. Mudie, J. E. Johnson, S. Wilton, G. P. Lewis and J. McDonald.

Per Yawaku Maru, for Australia, Rear-Admiral Beardslee, Mrs. Beardslee, Messrs. F. W. Fairbank, B. A. Molesworth, R. J. Sloan, J. B. Maclarane, J. Meischall, Mr. and Mrs. R. Himuro, Mr. and Mrs. K. Tani, Messrs. K. Trada, K. Wisimura, K. Kamakami, S. Ito, Mrs. and Miss Beltram de Lis, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Taylor and child, Messrs. A. Beltram de Lis, M. Fukushima, M. Arais, T. Yatsui, Capt. Harnier, Messrs. S. Miseka and N. Gemtile.

Per Loongcon, for Shanghai, Mr. John Hazell.

Per Eridan, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. T. E. Hardy; for Nagasaki, Mr. E. M. O'Brien.

Per Indus, from Hongkong, for Saigon, Messrs. Metman, S. Costin, Revs. Martinet and Artif, Mrs. D. Santos, Mrs. F. Santos, Mr. and Mrs. R. Domingo, Mr. and Mrs. M. Breonis; for Singapore, Sister Luigi Spazzini, Mr. F. Baddeley and Rev. J. Wilson; for Bombay, Mr. P. J. Tavaria; for Marseilles, Lieut. Mesman, Messrs. E. Saveau, A. L. Flecher, T. Gellier, F. Guellier and J. Palvadecu.

Per Loongsang, for Manila, Mrs. C. C. Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Jenks, Messrs. S. D. Bradford, J. L. Mauning, R. S. MacDongall, M. G. Walford, D. Martin, W. G. Fritz and Capt. F. P. Gilmore.

Per Coptic, for Shanghai, Messrs. A. W. Torkington, A. B. Skottour, W. Lamond, A. G. Escamillio, Geo. Sutherland, H. Jacob, Mrs. S. Jacob, and Miss Rosa Jacob; for Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. O. Carri and Mrs. Okito; for Kobe, Capt. Conner, Mrs. Conner, Masters Conner (two), Mr. and Mrs. S. Dickinson, Miss Lucy Dickinson, Miss Lily Dickinson, Master W. B. Dickinson, Mr. Sydney Stead, and Miss H. S. Fletcher; for Yokohama, Mr. H. S. Playfair; for San Francisco, Mr. H. Hilbert, Mrs. G. A. Williams and infant, Messrs. James Emmons and H. Himons; for London, Mr. W. M. McKinlay.

Per Diamante, for Manila, Mr. F. A. Sherman, Mrs. Lolis, Miss Loiada, Mr. O. E. Ballin, Mrs. K. Yamaguchi, Mrs. T. Okamoto, Mr. F. J. Codz, Miss Romero, Master S. Bonagan, Messrs. A. A. Montague and T. Matsuki, Mrs. H. S. Wallace, Mrs. J. M. Baker and Pollard's Lilliputian Opera Co.

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to report upon their own actions, and in fact call on them to presumably condemn themselves.

The PRESIDENT said he had nothing to do with the selection of the site.

Dr. HARTIGAN, continuing, said at all events the site was chosen. He brought up objections to its surroundings, and both the President and the P.C.M.O. distinctly stated that the objections which he raised at a previous Board meeting did not exist. The doctor continued his observations, criticising the different statements made in the report. He added:—"Finally we are told that the site is most admirable. Now this opinion the Board did not challenge, considering that the choice made was settled and irrevocable. But the Board, in pursuance of its duty, did ask that certain defects and nuisances in the surroundings should be remedied, and are told that water can be run off, that a swamp can be filled in. Really we have some brains and could have cerebrated that fact for ourselves. Venice was built on a swamp. I do not doubt the D.P.W. could erect Doges' palaces at Kennedystown, but the only improvement he *actually* offers is the removal of rotten hides, to be enforced by our own officers. I cannot help thinking that this is a piece of sarcasm—I have noticed it before at these Board meetings—by that great master of official casuistry and uncompromising opponent of the Board who has signed that letter.

The PRESIDENT—I am afraid I shall have to call you to order for speaking in this way. You are speaking, I think, of a member of the Board and the Colonial Secretary.

Dr. HARTIGAN said he was speaking of the gentleman who had signed the letter.

The PRESIDENT—I do not think you should speak of him in that way.

Dr. HARTIGAN—I will withdraw any part which you consider wrong, but I maintain that the same sort of thing has been inserted in previous letters. If I have said anything which is not in accordance with the etiquette of the Board I withdraw it.

The Hon. F. H. MAY—As far as my memory goes he said the writer of the letter was an opponent of every sanitary reform and a master of casuistry, and I think that is most uncalled for.

Dr. HARTIGAN—I beg to say most emphatically that I said nothing of the sort. I said opponent of this Board.

The PRESIDENT—And a master of casuistry.

Dr. HARTIGAN—Yes.

The PRESIDENT—I think those words should be withdrawn.

Dr. HARTIGAN—I will not withdraw "opponent of this Board," but I will withdraw "master of casuistry" if you think the expression offensive. I am sorry so much heat has been engendered.

Dr. Hartigan had not proceeded much further when he was again called to order. He said—The whole correspondence is further proof of the folly of striving against the official phalanx which can never do wrong. You as officials—I draw that line distinctly—are all equally masters of evasion and equivocation.

The PRESIDENT—Order, order, order! This is a very wrong way for you to speak, Dr. Hartigan.

Dr. HARTIGAN—Do you object to the word "evasion?"

The PRESIDENT—It is a very improper word.

The Hon. F. H. MAY—I object to the word "equivocation." I am not accustomed to being called a liar, and I ask Dr. Hartigan to come outside and call me one. I consider it nothing less than an insult to charge members with being guilty of equivocation.

Dr. HARTIGAN—I expected the President to call you to order when you asked me to come outside, but as he did not I ask you for him.

The PRESIDENT—I think so.

Dr. HARTIGAN (there being no response from Mr. May)—We will pass it over then. They use certain means as officials which they scorn in their unofficial capacity to use.

The PRESIDENT—That I absolutely deny. I consider that most insulting too.

Dr. HARTIGAN—I am very sorry.

The PRESIDENT—Have you any resolution? We have really a great deal of business to go through.

The Hon. F. H. MAY also objected to Dr. Hartigan proceeding, adding: "There is no

resolution before the Board. He has been meandering about and what he means I don't know, and I am sure nobody else does."

Dr. HARTIGAN said he was sorry if the Board had not read the report which he was taking point to point. In conclusion he said—I have spoken strongly, for I felt deeply that an endeavour has been made to cast, publicly and officially, an unmerited slur on our straightforwardness and veracity. I make no motion, believing it would be useless.

The subject then dropped.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

Replying to a recommendation of the Board, the Colonial Secretary wrote:—

"I am directed to inform you that the Principal Civil Medical Officer has been instructed to furnish the Sanitary Board regularly with a copy of the Government Analyst's monthly report on the condition of the water supply of the colony."

THE LIGHTING, ETC., OF THE NEW WESTERN MARKET.

A report by Mr. Ladds (Colonial Veterinary Surgeon) as to the lighting, etc., of the proposed new Western Market was submitted. Mr. Ladds said that as no plan of the elevation of the building was given with those which he received he was unable to offer an opinion on the lighting of the building. The situation of the proposed new building was a good one, but the area of the plot upon which it was to stand was far too small. The number of shops and stalls shown in the plans was 103, as against 169 in the old market. The poultry shops numbered 12, as at present, but instead of getting 432 square feet each as they ought to the architect had only allowed 163 square feet. The total stall area shown on the plans was 7,970 square feet and of this 6,480 would be required for 15 poultry shops, thus leaving 1,490 square feet, which ought to be also utilised to provide room for three more poultry shops, for further expansion of trade. The poultry shops would thus absorb the whole of the space in the new building, and this left 148 other shops and stalls to be provided for in the second of the proposed new markets, which he understood was to be erected upon the site of the present Harbour Office.

The total area of the present Western Market was 28,850 square feet, with a stall area of about 15,000 square feet, but the avenues or public thoroughfares were far too narrow and much more space was really required. This was shown by the new plans—here they had 23,121 square foot total area of both floors and only 7,970 total stall space. Hence as the area of the plot of ground upon which the present Harbour Office now stands was 8,200 square feet the available stall space of a second new market built upon it, supposing it to be composed of two floors and arranged upon a somewhat similar scale as the proposed first new market building, would be about 5,470 square feet. This added to the total stall area given of the first new market was 7,970=13,440 square feet, being even less stall area than is contained in the old Western Market. If the views of the present tenants as to the accommodation required have not yet been obtained, he recommended that this should be done through the Registrar-General, not necessarily with the view of embodying all the stall holders' suggestions, but to gather their general views upon the subject, and to meet them as far as possible. Should it be the intention of the Government to place the proposed new building under the charge of a European, as in the case of the Central Market, he begged to point out that the bedroom accommodation as shown upon the plan—viz., 12 ft. 9 in. by 10 ft.—appeared to him to be very inadequate, and would he feel sure be found very hot and uncomfortable during the summer months. In conclusion Mr. Ladds said:—

"From the figures given above it may be gathered that I am strongly of opinion that the two proposed new markets which it is intended to erect as a substitute for the present Western Market will not at all meet the requirements of the case, and that they will not, both included, provide as much stall and shop accommodation as already exists in the old market. It is a very great pity indeed that a fine two-storeyed building was not erected upon the site of the present Western Market, which is admirably situated and adapted to such a purpose, and that the proposed new building as shown upon the

plans was not added as a supplementary market. Then the requirements of the Western District would have been met for a good many years, whereas the present arrangement will leave the situation, so far as stall accommodation is concerned, in much the same position as it was before, even if not worse. Note:—There is a very large wholesale poultry store in Saiying-pon which requires 1,100 square feet or three shops."

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. McKie:—"Mr. Ladds' report discloses a most unsatisfactory prospect which fortunately it is not too late to take steps to improve.

Dr. Hartigan:—"This requires most serious consideration. We require very much more not less accommodation than at present provided. Every member of the Board is agreed as to the insufficiency of market accommodation."

Mr. Osborne:—"Mr. Ladds' report is a revelation, and if the New Western Market is to be saved from becoming a fiasco the whole question will have to be considered *de novo*.

The Hon. F. H. May:—"This report is misleading. The site of the new market was chosen by a committee on which the M. O. H. had a seat, to say nothing of the D. P. W., Mr. Chater, Mr. Wei Yuk, and Mr. Basil Taylor. Let us have the plans explained to us by the D. P. W."

The PRESIDENT—I see now it was a mistake referring these plans of the Western Market to Mr. Ladds, and I should have opposed it at the time. The Governor has agreed to let the Board see the plans of such buildings, and make suggestions, but I do not think it was ever contemplated that the Board should pass these on, not even looked at, to one of their subordinate officers for report. I presume the Board do not expect me to enter into a controversy with Mr. Ladds, who has failed to understand the design and fallen into many egregious mistakes. The plans were prepared by one of my officers who is an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects and a first-class honour medalist for designing and constructing at Kensington. In consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, and myself he has provided against the mistakes made in the Central Market designs, and in my opinion has done his work extremely well. It is simply absurd that his plans should be submitted for the criticism of a veterinary surgeon. I have no wish whatever to reflect on Mr. Ladds' abilities in his own line, and would be very sorry indeed to put my opinion against his on anything connected with the treatment of animals: but he should not meddle with architecture. If the Board are desirous of having the plans of the Western Market again put on the table, I shall ask the architect, Mr. Fisher, to attend here and explain any points wished for.

In reference to these plans, Dr. Bell had the following two questions down on the paper:—
(1.) Were the plans for the new Western Market submitted to the Sanitary Board, and if so, when? (2.) Were any improvements in the plans suggested by the Board, and if so, in what direction? In view of the President's statement, however, he now asked leave to withdraw them, as they had been put under a misapprehension.

Mr. OSBORNE was of opinion that it would be a very excellent plan to have the Public Works officer there to explain the plans. At the same time, the Board would be wanting in duty if it were to entirely pass over Mr. Ladds' criticisms. These criticisms were really dealing with facts, and one of the most important of these facts was that the accommodation to be provided by the new site was not such as at present existed in the old Western Market. One of the chief reasons for building a new market was to provide more accommodation, and if the colony were to be given in place of the existing one, a new and handsome building, but with less stalls than the present market, it would most certainly be a retrograde movement. It would therefore be advisable, before agreeing that the new building be commenced, to satisfy themselves on that one point. It had been said that by and by they would get the site of the Harbour Office. No definite promises, however, had been made to that effect, and considering the trouble encountered in getting the market

accommodation increased, there did not seem much chance of their getting that site.

The Hon. F. H. MAY said it had never been contemplated that the site in front of the Harbour Office would in itself be sufficient. The sites recommended were two in front of the Harbour Office and that of the Harbour Office when it was removed. He suggested that the Government be asked to let the Board see the report, when the matter could be fully gone into.

This proposal was adopted.

BYE-LAW 18 OF THE DRAINAGE BYE-LAWS. The following letter from the Colonial Secretary was submitted:—

"In reply to your letter of the 18th January, I am directed to enquire whether, in view of the fact that it may not always be possible to have a straight drain under the conditions existing in Hongkong, it would not have the same effect of the words 'wherever possible' were deleted and the words 'unless the written permission of the Sanitary Board Surveyor has first been obtained to lay it otherwise' were substituted in bye-law 18 of the Drainage Bye-laws."

Dr. CLARK said he himself saw no objection to the deletion of the words "wherever possible," and he did not suppose that the Sanitary Board Surveyor had.

The PRESIDENT thought the alteration as suggested in the letter would exactly meet the case, and proceeded to put to the Board the resolution embodying the alteration.

This was agreed to.

THE HEIGHT OF BUILDINGS.

Dr. CLARK had given notice of his intention to move:—

"That the Board again direct the attention of the Government to the urgent necessity for amending the law governing the height of buildings, and beg to recommend that no building be permitted to be erected in future to a greater height than one and a half times the width of the street on which it fronts."

Attached to the notice was the following minute by Dr. Clark:

"In view of the proposed consolidation of the Building Ordinances at an early date, and the grave importance to the sanitary welfare of the colony of the question of the height of buildings, I think the Board should not neglect this opportunity of again urging upon the Government the absolute necessity of amending the existing law upon this point, if the colony is to be preserved from future epidemics of those diseases which are fostered by want of light and air. There is probably no other British colony or possession in the world where a building can be put up to a height of 46 feet in a lane only 14 feet wide. The whole of the recent sanitary enactments are being stultified by our present rules as to the height of buildings, for the Chinese and other property owners have at last begun to realise that where they now have a two-storey building the law allows them to put a three or four-storey one, and during the past two or three years an enormous number of plans have come in adding to the height of existing building or replacing the two-storey buildings by more lofty ones."

Dr. CLARK said that since giving notice of this motion the report of the recently appointed committee on sanitary improvements in the City of Victoria had been handed in, and that report had quite taken the wind out of his sails. It represented his views exactly, and he wished to ask the permission of the Board to withdraw the resolution.

The PRESIDENT—I presume the Board has no objections?"

Dr. CLARK, proceeding, said that arguments with regard to the height of building had been gone over so frequently that it seemed almost unnecessary to go over them again. He then proceeded to treat of the various points raised in the report, and ended by moving its adoption, adding that it be sent to the Government with the strongest recommendations of the Board for its early adoption.

Mr. OSBORNE said he should like to bring to the notice of the Board one point in connection with this matter. The central part of the city, between Pedder's Wharf and the Naval Yard, was the only part devoted to public buildings, offices, and so on. There was no room for expansion eastwards, towards the Naval Yard, and very little room for expansion

westwards, on account of enormous possession of land for Chinese houses. Therefore, if accommodation was to be provided for expansion at all, it must, in these instances, be in the height of the buildings. He did not think that regulations meant principally to apply to domestic buildings should be made applicable to buildings such as those he had suggested.

The Hon. F. H. MAY supported the resolution. When Ordinance 34 of 1899 was before the Board, there was in the original draft of that Ordinance a clause limiting the height of buildings to one and a half times the width of the street; that was what they wanted to get now. He thought, with the Medical Officer of Health, that this was really a most important sanitary improvement, and the time had now come when they should fight as hard as they could to get this law passed.

The PRESIDENT—Mr. Osborne, are you prepared to make an amendment?

Mr. OSBORNE—I don't think it is necessary to make an amendment; incorporate it in the report.

Dr. CLARK's motion was then put to the meeting and carried.

The report was to the effect that the Government should be urged to introduce further legislation on the subject of the height of buildings in relation to the width of the streets on which they front. In June, 1898, the board unanimously recommended that no domestic building should exceed in height one-and-a-half times the width of the street upon which it fronts, and they were still of that opinion.

In the reports of the Medical Officer of Health would be found particulars as to the excessive surface-crowding in the City, reaching in some of the health districts to more than 800 persons per acre—a density of population that compared very unfavourably with that of the large cities of England. It had been clearly shown by authorities on sanitation that the death rate of any district increased with the density of the population. The most densely populated districts of London had in 1881-90 200 persons per acre, which was being appreciably lessened.

Taking health districts 4 to 9 of the City of Victoria, comprising over 200 acres, the density of population amounted to 638 persons per acre, which could not be regarded as sanitary. The present regulations as to the height of buildings in this colony resulted in deficient light on the lower floors, and this was most prejudicial to health, and encouraged such filth diseases as bubonic plague. An example of the excessive height to which buildings could be erected was seen in the fact that the buildings on both sides of a lane exceeding by even an inch or two 15ft. in width, may be raised to a height of 40ft.

In the Liverpool Sanitary Act of 1846 the minimum width of streets permitted was 30ft., and no building may exceed in height the width of the street it fronts. The sanitary regulations contained in the Newcastle Improvement Act of 1870 required a minimum street width of 40ft., and gave the municipal authority more discretion as to the minimum width of footpaths in all cases. In London, it was understood, no building could be erected to a greater height than the width of the street on which it fronted without the special permission of the sanitary authority, and similar restrictions were now in force in other large cities of England.

The second question the Committee wished to bring forward was that of the resumption of insanitary or obstructive buildings. There were many private lanes in the city over one or both entrances to which owners had in the past been permitted to erect dwellings, thus converting these streets into what was technically known as "courts"—the most insanitary type of building. The Committee recommended that the Government should absolutely forbid the erection of any more of these buildings, and should at the same time proceed gradually with the resumption and demolition of those already in existence. Under the Housing of the Working Classes Act of England, the entire cost of such resumption would fall upon the owners of the remaining houses in such courts whose property would be materially benefitted by such sanitary improvements.

Mr. Fung Wa Chuen minuted—"The recommendations contained in this report appear to me to bear very hardly and unequally on one

class of the community, who will alone suffer, for the benefit of all the rest. Unless some compensation for the loss they may suffer is offered, I do not see my way to agree."

AN APPLICATION GRANTED.

An application for permission to erect six water closets and six urinals at the new Club house for the Club Germania was granted.

APPLICATION FOR THE ERECTION OF A BUILDING OVER 76 FEET HIGH.

Messrs. Palmer and Turner, architects, wrote that they were about to erect a block of buildings on Reclamation Lot No. 7 and 2 C, at the junction of Des Voeux and Chater Roads, which would be over the 76 feet allowed under Ordinance, and they would require that the Board would sanction their building to a height of 100 feet from pavement to parapet wall. The site was rectangular, and the roads were 75 feet wide, so that there was no question of want of light and air.

The following minutes were appended.—

Dr. Clark—"I recommend refusal. Queen's Building, which is on the sea-front, is only 80 feet in height (not including the domes), and I think that 76 feet is as high as any ordinary building should be in Hongkong except on the sea front, as the width of the streets is reduced some 12 ft. to 16 ft. by verandas."

The Hon. R. D. Ormsby—"I am in favour of sanctioning this. The building might be 112 feet high, namely one and a half times the width of the streets, under the strictest rules in force anywhere."

Dr. Clark—"The D.P.W.'s minute is not exactly correct, as the rules in force in London are that no building may exceed in height the width of the street on which it fronts, and there the street are not reduced 10 to 20 feet in width by verandas.

Dr. Hartigan—"I agree with M.O.H."

Mr. Chan A Fook—"Refuse."

Dr. Bell—"Refuse."

The Hon. F. H. May—"Refuse. This comes of giving an inch."

Mr. OSBORNE proposed that the application be granted. The building would have streets on two sides and would be used entirely as offices. Therefore the argument as to surface-crowding did not apply.

Dr. HARTIGAN seconded.

The PRESIDENT supported, and the motion was carried.

RINDERPEST AT NAGASAKI.

The PRESIDENT read a letter from Nagasaki stating that rinderpest had broken out there.

The letter was referred to the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon for his information.

THE PLAGUE.

Reports of cases of plague in Singapore, Karachi, and Formosa were submitted.

Dr. CLARK said that with regard to Formosa 79 cases and 46 deaths were reported. He moved that the Board should recommend the Government—to declare Formosa infected with plague, so that vessels coming from there could be medically inspected.

The Hon. F. H. MAY seconded, and the motion was carried.

THE HEALTH OF THE COLONY.

The death rate for the week ended January 13th was 16.1, against 17.8 for the previous week and 20.0 for the corresponding week last year. The rate for the succeeding week was 20.0, against 23.0 for the corresponding week last year.

DEATHS IN MACAO.

The deaths in Macao for the week ended January 13th numbered 32, and in the succeeding week 31.

The mortality returns for the week ended 27th January, 1900, give a total of 40 deaths.

This was all the business.

Private letters from the cruiser *Terrible* indicate, says a service contemporary, that she will be ordered home in March, or three years after she was commissioned. The *Terrible* was the first great ship fitted with water-tube boilers to commence her trials; and although the *Powerful* was the first to finish there were not wanting experts, who attended the trials of both, who declared that the *Terrible* would prove the more successful ship of the two. So far, however, nothing has occurred to justify vindictive comparisons, for both ships have realized expectations.

ANOTHER MURDER IN THE COLONY.

SUPREME COURT MESSENGER STABBED TO DEATH.

Another murder—the third within a month, and quite as daring in its perpetration, so far as the meagre details that are at present obtainable go to show, as that of Young Ku Wan, the reformer—has been committed in the Colony. The victim is Kwong Cheung, a well-known figure in the Supreme Court, where he was employed as a messenger. On Tuesday, between ten and eleven a.m., the unfortunate man was stabbed to death in his house at 143, Queen's Road East, three deep wounds being inflicted in the region of the breast. From the very daring of the murderer or murderers in selecting for the committal of his deed an hour of the day when everyone was astir—a circumstance that lent every possible chance to their being captured, it is surmised that mere robbery was not the motive for the crime: probably jealousy will be found to have been a factor.

On Thursday, before Mr. Hazeland at the Magistracy, Wong Po, widow, was brought up and formally charged with the murder of Kwong Cheung, late Supreme Court messenger, at 143, Queen's Road East, on the 5th inst. The victim, it will be remembered, was found dead in bed with three dagger wounds in the breast. No evidence was heard, and the hearing was adjourned.

FATAL FIRE IN QUEEN'S ROAD.

FOUR DEATHS.

Outbreaks of fire, more or less serious, are an every week occurrence in the colony, but rarely are they attended with fatal results. This unfortunately cannot be said of an outbreak which occurred on the 3rd inst. shortly after 6 a.m., on the first floor of premises situated at 201, Queen's Road West, occupied by a Chinese lantern and scroll-maker. The highly inflammable nature of the stock quickly gave the fire a strong grip of the building, and the flames spread with a rapidity that was simply amazing. From the immediate vicinity of the outbreak there arose one great sheet of fire, caused by the ignition of the Chinese lanterns, which could be heard exploding with a report like that of a whip in the hands of a strong man. This sudden and startling development was totally unlooked for, and practically cut off all means of escape from the floor above, which was used as a dwelling house, and occupied by six people—a married woman and her nephew (a boy of 16), a servant girl aged 16, a servant boy aged 16, and two *fokis*. The nephew and one of the *fokis*, by breaking down a partition and clambering over the verandah, managed to make their way to an adjoining house and safety, being only slightly burned in their passage. The noise caused by the breaking down of the partition apparently roused the other inmates, but by the time they fully realised the peril menacing them, the fire had secured a firmer hold and now completely encircled them. Clambering over the rail of the burning verandah, the second *foki* jumped to the street, and sustained shocking injuries. Both legs were broken, the bones projecting through the skin above the knees. He was picked up and conveyed to the Government Civil Hospital, where he died soon after admission. The Fire Brigade, under Captain Superintendent May, was early in attendance, but the flames, as already stated, had obtained such a firm hold that all the brigade could do was to prevent their spreading, in which, happily, they were entirely successful, although the flames had obtained a slight hold of the houses on each side. The whole place, eye-witnesses say, seemed to go up in one great blaze, and there was hardly any smoke. When the outbreak had eventually been overcome, on the verandah were found the bodies of the woman and the servant girl and boy. They were not greatly burned, and death was apparently due to suffocation. The bodies were removed to the mortuary, where they await identification. The first and second floors were gutted, but the shop itself emerged comparatively safe, the greater

part of the damage resulting there being caused by water. The premises are insured for \$1,700 with Messrs. Hotz, Jacob & Co.

The only theory the police at present hold regarding the origin of the fire is that someone had carelessly thrown Chinese crackers amongst the lanterns stored on the verandah from one of the houses in the vicinity, which overlook the building. Arson, from the fatal results attending the outbreak, is not suspected. Strange to say, the 2nd inst., when the shop was closed out of respect to the memory of the late Queen, was the first day that these lanterns were stored on the verandah. They are usually hung in long rows outside the shop, but for convenience on the day in question they were temporarily stored in the place indicated.

A LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER ROBBED.

A MEAN ACTION.

Mr. Mee Cheung, photographer, Ice House Street, has been made the victim of a decidedly cruel breach of hospitality, when, early on Thursday morning, the 31st ult. he was robbed of a sum of \$260. It has been his practice, it appears, when a certain countryman of his, a ship's cook, was in port or out of work, to provide this man with food and lodging, and generally to give him the run of his house. On Wednesday, Mee Cheung collected an account of \$650 from the Pollard Lilliputian Company, which money he carried home and locked away. The "friend," who was then staying with him, became aware of this fact, and that night, or rather early next morning, when his host about half-past one retired to bed, he stole down to the shop and broke open a drawer in which he knew Mee Cheung kept his cash. From this drawer he took a box, and, making his way quietly to the roof of the house, forced it open. The thief must have been rather disappointed with the amount of his booty, for the box did not contain the \$650 sought, which Mee Cheung for additional security had luckily deposited in another receptacle. The box broken open by the thief, however, contained the not inconsiderable sum of \$260, with which he cleared off. Mee Cheung awoke about half-past six, and a casual visit to the shop, by the discovery of the forced drawer, revealed the outrageous return that had been made for his kindness, this being verified by the finding later of the money-box on the roof of the house. Mee Cheung at once reported the robbery to the police, to whom he has supplied a photograph of the thief. It is feared, however, that he has succeeded in making his escape to Chinese territory, which, if true, places him almost beyond hope of capture.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT KOWLOON.

\$50,000 DAMAGES.

A disastrous fire which had a very trivial origin took place at Cheung Sha Wan on Tuesday. At about half-past nine in the morning an old woman who resided in a mat-shed was standing over the fire preparing some food for her pigs when some sparks which flew about set the mat-shed ablaze. The adjoining mat-sheds became ignited, and then the launch-building shed of Ngai Sun and Co. caught fire. The flames spread with great rapidity. In addition to a large amount of loose timber, two launches were completely destroyed and a third one partly demolished. It is estimated that damage to the extent of \$50,000 was done. The premises were not insured. The Fire Brigade from Yaumati Central Police Station, the floating engine from Tsim Tsa Tsui, and a couple of manualls from Li-chi-kok, were busily engaged for some time, but were unable to save the launch-building place.

The rumour has again been put in circulation to the effect that Sir Robert Hart intends retiring from the control of the Customs at Peking. The *L. & C. Express* states that it is in a position to give an absolute contradiction to this statement. The I. G. has never thought of giving up his post at the present critical juncture in the affairs of China, when his knowledge and experience of Chinese finance is more than ever necessary, adds our contemporary.

THE ENGINEERS' INSTITUTE.

* ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The tenth annual general meeting in connection with the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong was held on Thursday, the 31st ult., Mr. R. Cooke presiding.

Mr. OWEN ORDISH (the retiring secretary) read the annual report, from which we extract the following:

"There has been a falling off in the number of members—15 less than the previous year; this is due to the transfer to the North German Lloyd of the Scottish Oriental Company's Steamships and the unusual number of members on leave. The roll now stands as follows:—Ordinary Members 196, Visiting (A class) 100, Ditto (B class) 32, Associates 3, Honorary 2; total 333. We regret to record the loss by death of eight members, namely, Messrs. H. W. Richards, J. A. Marshall, J. Murdoch, D. McGilivray, R. Burt, A. C. Lang, G. Croll, and F. W. Musgrave. Five members have resigned, one been expelled and ninety-seven new members enrolled during the year. The proceedings 1899-1900 compiled by Mr. W. C. Jack and Mr. E. C. Wilks are now in the hands of the printers and will be ready at an early date for those members desiring to purchase copies. Papers are being prepared by several members to be read at the Institute and in addition it is proposed to arrange for discussions on subjects that will be of interest to the members. At the general meeting when the resolution was passed to transfer the Institute rooms from 13, Old Praya Central, to 3, Des Vœux Road, a proposition was put to the meeting that the subscription be increased to three dollars; this was acquiesced in by the members present. We now ask you to confirm the same. A visit was paid to the Ewo Cotton and Spinning Mills on the 4th June and in the evening the annual dinner was held in the Institute Rooms, at which Mr. Shaw, the manager of the Cotton Mills, was the guest of the members. The committee have not considered it necessary to write any value off the furniture. The billiard tournaments, two in number, were well contested and both won by our veteran champion, Mr. R. V. Rutter. Mr. James Guy, member, kindly presented to the Institute an Ansler's planimeter to be put up for competition. We have to report a loss to the Institute of \$470, the Institute safe having been opened and money extracted between the closing of the Institute on the night of the 23rd of December last and 10 a.m. on the following morning, the manager having inadvertently left the keys in the office."

After a few remarks from the CHAIRMAN the report was adopted.

The question as to whether the subscription should be raised to \$3 a month or \$2.50 per month was mooted, and the latter sum was ultimately decided upon.

The election of officers, etc., resulted as follows:—President, Mr. R. Cooke; secretary, Mr. Miller; treasurer, Mr. W. M. Evers; auditors, Messrs. W. G. Winterburn and A. Ritchie. Committee—Messrs. Bridger, Mudie, Christie, Andrew, J. Macdonald, Graham, Banks, Bain, Robertson, Brownhill, Bailey, and Kyles. Messrs. Macdonald, Bailey, and Bain withdrew, and Messrs. Lammert, Dale, and Hutchins were elected in their places. The following were elected a council for the proposed scientific branch of the Institute:—Messrs. Ordish (secretary), Jack, Wilkie, Murphy, Ramsey, D. Macdonald, and J. Macdonald. Mr. D. Gillies was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Institute.

A Wuchang despatch to Shanghai states that H.E. Viceroy Chang Chih-tung has telegraphed to Li Sheng-to, Chinese Minister to Japan, informing him that a Translation Society has recently been started at Tokyo by the Chinese Reformers in Japan, and asking him to try if he can influence the Japanese Government to put the "seditious" Society under an interdiction. The works this Society is translating, the *N.-C. Daily News* is informed, are chiefly of a political and philosophical nature and include Bentham's *Theory of Legislation*, Montesquieu's *Spirit of Law*, Bryce's *American Commonwealth*, and Huxley's *Evolution of Ethics*.

"DUKE," THE CIRCUS TIGER.

Of the vast numbers who visit the menagerie at Harmston's Circus nightly, probably there are but few who would credit that the tiger which peacefully reclines its length in the iron-bound cage before them has an history as interesting and as instructive as any yet penned regarding that fierce creature of the forest. The Bengal tiger is a species of that class of quadruped which in confinement exhibits the wildest symptoms of malignity, and often under the soothing influences of the tamer's baton will turn and destroy all within its reach. *Duke*, Harmston's tiger, has shown no such destructive tendencies, and in this, as well as in many other characteristics, certainly stands out foremost among the captive creatures of its time. It was therefore with a desire to learn more about this interesting animal that our representative sought out Mr. Love on Monday at Connaught House. There this enterprising public entertainer was found ready to furnish any information we required on the subject, and begging our representative be seated, he began:

"Well! Let me say at once that the last time I was interviewed by a pressman on the subject of *Duke*, a newspaper war followed, which nearly terminated in a law-suit and a breach of the peace. I made certain statements about the tiger which they said were untrue and they had to eat their words."

"Let us hope that no such disagreeable *contretemps* will follow this interview," our representative remarked.

"I am ready at all costs to stand by what I say concerning that tiger, and at once I will tell you that I will challenge any man, here or elsewhere, to disprove what I say. There is in that cage as remarkable a beast as can be seen on this earth. Of course I don't know what is yet in the forest, but for untamed animals of that kind he is the largest and the best in captivity at the present moment. *Duke* was brought up by the famous Charini, the circus proprietor, who many years ago travelled throughout the East and Far East. Charini was visiting Japan in the beginning of the year 1888, and just before his departure he gave two performances for the Mikado and the Royal family of Japan. In his menagerie Charini possessed two Bengal tigers named *Kitty* and *Prince*, and about that time *Duke* and another formed a litter during the stay of the show in the Mikado's Kingdom. They were the noblest specimens of Bengal tigers then before the public in these parts of the globe. £1,200 was the price paid for the animals by Charini on their being landed in Singapore, and James Frame, who was then their trainer, brought these two little cubs, and put them into the lap of the Empress. She stroked it, and the cub licked her hand, and after a short time she expressed her desire to have one of the cubs given her as a present, and this was done. *Duke's* brother was given away to Her Majesty, and is now at Weyno Park. The Mikado presented the trainer in return with two monster Hakodate bears."

"But the tiger now at Weyno Park is not half the size of *Duke*."

"No, although they are brothers. You see, there are many reasons why *Duke* has been reared up such a fine creature. He was never kept in captivity until within a few years ago. He was always allowed to paw the ground with his feet, and had a small collar attached to his neck. In fact they all used to play with him until he was four years old when he began to show signs of a bad temper. For instance, he would sometimes snap at a person, and in many other ways give way to savage actions which caused us all to fear him somewhat. After he was caged with his parents *Kitty* and *Prince*, the trainer Frame then taught him to go through part of the performances which he goes through each evening here in Hongkong."

"That must have been a rather hard task in one who had been given such latitude?"

"Oh dear no. *Duke* took to it quite easily. I think a tiger is one of the tamest animals in the world, but you cannot trust him, and when once you strike him you have to look out. Of course you must hit him at first to teach him what to do, and then you must hit him to show him that you are master of the situation. In 1889 a Chinese syndicate in Shanghai purchased

the menagerie from Charini, and Harmston bought it from the Syndicate. I was then Manager of the circus, and the tiger continued to travel with us. He was exhibited nightly in his cage, but it was not till twelve months afterwards that he commenced to perform in public. In or about 1893 *Kitty*, *Duke's* mother, died during another litter—only a short time after we had completed the purchase. *Prince*, the father, lived on for two years afterwards, but died just after he had shown a disposition to be savage to those attending upon him. A tamer of some repute, Leon Hernandez, commenced to train him and succeeded after some little time in teaching the animal to jump over fired bars, &c. He continued to train *Duke* till about the year 1894, when a Chinaman who had been employed by the native syndicate and had attended upon *Duke* almost from its birth, was seen to enter the cage."

"Had the Chinaman any fear at first?"

"Oh dear no! I saw him myself when everybody had left the circus, painting the bars of the cage on the inside and seated with perfect ease smoking while he did so, and the tiger crouched beside him as apparently unconcerned as if there was no one present with him. I was astonished, and called the man out telling him never to go inside the cage again. That was, as I afterwards found, totally uncalled for, because he was quite at home with the beast, and could do almost anything with him. Indeed he subsequently came to me and asked me if he could perform with the animal, and I, after some hesitation, gave my consent. He then used to go into the cage regularly until one day, while swerving, he slipped and fell, and immediately *Duke* sprang upon him and laid his paw on his ear. The Chinaman did not shrink, but cried out 'Duke! Why for? I give you chow. Why for?' The enraged animal looked down upon the man, and as if to appreciate that he was injuring his own friend, he let him go again and we got the Chinaman out uninjured. Even this did not frighten the man, and he still went on performing with the tiger till he thought, to his cost, that he would try his hand also on the two leopards in the adjoining cage. They are two jungle tigers, and they did not so readily appreciate the attendances of the celestial, for one day they sprang upon him, and mauled him so severely that he was unable to enter the cage again. He was under medical care in the Madras Hospital for nine months, but we found he was permanently disabled and gave the performances over to another man, named Murphy, who continued till the end of 1895. A man named Strieff at that time took *Duke* in hand, and while the circus was in Rangoon in 1895-96 quite a sensation was caused by *Duke* attacking his trainer while in the ring. Strieff had been half-way through his performance when he turned round to look at some one in the audience and *Duke* sprang upon him. The tiger caught him by the neck, and mauled him so badly that for a time his life was despaired of. However, under medical care he survived, and on the return visit of the circus he went into the cage again, but only for a night or two, when he gave up the business entirely."

"Has he ever killed any of his trainers?"

"Yes! Gomez, the intrepid tamer, who for many years had attended to the animals in Fillis's Circus. The circumstances attending the abrupt removal of Gomez from his earthly round of duties are particularly sad. Want of attention to detail was mainly responsible. He neglected to light the gate, whose stalactite flames daze and appal for the moment. He had armed himself with two pieces of rattan (cane bottom of a chair) instead of iron clubs, there was kerosene on the floor of the cage, and he was evidently in a most careless mood. *Duke* jumped over and back, but on the fifth essay he put only two legs across the hurdle and there discovered Gomez presiding over operations. One flash of intelligence lit up *Duke's* face, the victorious moment had arrived. The trainer felt that he had erred, he rose to the crisis and plied the rattan on *Duke's* head, but having previously used it, the tiger had its strength. Then *Duke* put one massive paw on the trainer's spine and brought him to the floor, and a second paw placed behind the ear completed the series of death-dealing efforts. Now the spectators saw

the tiger crossing and re-crossing the hurdle in triumph, with the body of Gomez in his mouth, while the attendants in vain endeavoured with their iron prongs to check his triumphant leaping. After these exertions were over, *Duke* calmly lay down in the cage and wiped his paws with cat-like indifference. Gomez died two days later. Other trainers have taken *Duke* in hand, but latterly they have had to be very careful with him, for he seems to show his natural dispositions every once in a while—"

"Is it true that the tiger is put under some narcotic before he is brought into the ring?"

"No. It is not true. It was done to *Duke* while he was performing this last season in Calcutta, but we found it out before any great damage was done to the beast. It was like this. There was a man named Anderson who said he had had some experience in training wild animals, and after Gomez's death we thought we could give him a trial. By the side of the circus at that time there was another show which had two performing animals, and the people there used to drug them to make them perform. Anderson thought he would have more influence over *Duke* if he did the same thing, and he gave him several large quantities of narcotics before we found it out. One night when he was brought in the ring he could scarcely move and staggered at every turn. We spoke to Anderson about it, but although he denied it, we found it out afterwards, and refused to allow him to enter the cage again."

"What are the measurements of the tiger?"

"Well, when he was last measured, and that's some years ago, he was about 10 feet long from the tip of his tail to his head. Round his fore arm he measures 26 inches. He stands three feet high, and is 13 years old. I was offered \$3,500 (gold) by Barnum and Bailey, but money could not buy him from that cage. On the occasion of my benefit here a Chinaman is to go into the cage with Gus Burns, who has as much command over *Duke* as any of those who have been 'mates' with him in times past."

At this point our representative thanked Mr. Love, and withdrew.

NEW SAILORS' AND SOLDIERS' HOME.

A new Sailors' and Soldiers' Home at Arsenal Street, Praya West, was opened on Thursday afternoon by Mrs. F. H. May. The building, which was well filled with visitors, presented a gay aspect with every available spot enwrapt in bunting. The Rev. Mr. Bone conducted the proceedings which were of a purely formal character, and would have probably passed off in an equally formal manner, had it not been for a little diversion introduced by the reverend gentleman in the shape of a teetotal address. Notwithstanding all the opposition he had received he had determined that the building should be a "teetotal" Home conducted on absolutely temperance-lines, and with that end in view he had laboured, aided by a band of willing helpers, from the private to the officer, all of whom had contributed their "mites" towards the building fund. There was a balance of about \$1,500, still to be met, and he had every hope of receiving that before long. Col. Bertie, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, spoke at some length, and said he differed from the reverend gentleman on the beer-drinking question. He knew from his own experience that many became teetotalers to suit their own convenience, and threw their cards down when "free drinks" were on the board. He believed the real want was the Home to keep the men away from places where they obtained bad beer. The Chief Engineer of the Naval Yard supported Mr. Bone in his intention to run the Home on purely teetotal lines, a view which received some amount of approval by those present. A vote of thanks to Mrs. F. H. May concluded the proceedings.

The first-class cruiser *Blenheim* was manned at Chatham on 1st ult., when she was commissioned for service on the China Station by Captain F. H. Henderson. She was joined by 593 officers and men, of this number 159 coming from Devonport from the cruiser *Hermes*, which was lately paid off.

SPECIAL MEETING OF JUSTICES.

ANOTHER APPLICATION FOR THE EASTERN HOTEL REFUSED.

A special session of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace was held in the Justice Room at the Magistracy on the 5th inst. to consider an application from one William Godwin for a publican's licence to sell and retail intoxicating liquor on the premises situate at houses Nos. 192 and 194 Queen's Road East under the sign of "The Eastern Hotel." Mr. F. A. Hazeland (Acting Police Magistrate) presided, and there were also present, Messrs. E. W. Mitchell, F. J. Badeley, (Dr.) F. Clark, H. P. Looker, and C. A. D. Melbourne.

Mr. Reece, who appeared for the applicant, produced evidence as to character.

Mr. Hazeland observed that this was the third time an application had been made for that house and refused. The objection was not so much to the character of the applicant as to the situation of the house.

The Justices further considered the application in private, and Mr. Hazeland subsequently informed Mr. Reece that the Justices were unanimously of opinion that the application should be refused, as they did not consider that there was any necessity for a public house in the place indicated.

A HORRIBLE STORY.

INTENDED ATROCITIES—THE FATE OF CAPT. WATTS JONES.

A Northern correspondent writes:—It is reported from fairly reliable sources that documents have been found in Peking proving that the assailants of the Legations during the recent siege had instructions not to kill the inmates but to take as many as possible alive, as all prisoners were to be taken to the Temple of Heaven and there put through the process of being boiled.

It is also said that Liu Kung-yi, Viceroy of Nanking, had repeated instructions to attack and massacre the residents of Shanghai, and that had Tientsin fallen and with it Peking there is some reason to believe that these instructions would have been carried out—that is, as far as it lay in the power of the Chinese.

With regard to the murder of Captain Watts Jones, I learn that he was received in a friendly manner in the Yamen of the Taotai of Kuei Hua Chang (Shansi), and was in the act of receiving his passport when his hands were struck off. He was then taken outside the Yamen, sliced in several places and his head cut off. The whole thing is said to have lasted only about a quarter of an hour. His companion, a Roman Catholic Bishop, was not so fortunate, for his captors tortured him for several days before death released him.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 5th February.

INTENSE COLD AT CANTON.

On the mornings of the 4th and 5th inst. there were little flakes of snow falling and the weather was very cold, many beggars being frozen to death, some on the bridges in the city and others on the jetties. The philanthropic institutions, such as the Kwong Chai hospital and Oi-yuk Tong were providing coffins for them, and the rich and charitable people were giving away cotton wadded jackets and hot congee to the poor.

BLACK FLAGS RETURN TO CANTON.

In December last year the Black Flag general Liuyungfu and his troops were sent to garrison Waichow, with a view to the suppression of rebellion, as reported before. He and his four regiments arrived at Nim Shan, the principal seat of rebellion, and were quartered there over two months. The place being now quiet, he and three regiments have by order of the Viceroy returned to Canton and taken up their quarters at the East Gate, leaving one regiment at Nim Shan to watch and preserve peace.

A DROWNING FATALITY.

A cargo-boat owned by Wong Po Cheong and fully laden with cocoanuts and betelnuts was sailing the other day from King Shan to

Swatow. On her way a strong gale occurred which upset her, and threw the passengers and crew into the sea. It happened that a steam-launch was passing by, which saved some of the people and took them back to King Shan, but nineteen were drowned.

A TROUBLESON TIGER SHOT.

In the Ching Yuin village on the hill of Tai Po-kong there was a tiger that used to prowl around and carry away children, pigs, dogs, and fowls. This caused so much alarm to the villagers that they mustered to the number of twenty or more, armed themselves with rifles and spears, and proceeded up the hill to attack the tiger. They found him lying down asleep. They fired their rifles or blunderbusses, and the tiger, being aroused and very fierce, caught one man under his paws and wounded several others; but he was subsequently shot dead. He weighed over 400 catties, and was sold for over a hundred dollars, part of which was paid over to the wounded as compensation.

ANOTHER PIRACY CASE.

There were four passenger stern-wheel boats taken in tow by the two steam-launches *Kwong Sang* and *Kwong Lee* plying between Hoi Ping and Fatshan and back to Canton, and sailing together for mutual protection against the attacks of pirates. They were well guarded and provided with fire-arms. Their usual route was to pass the Chü Tao Shan (the Pig's Head Hills), the headquarters of the pirates. The latter's usual practice is to disguise themselves as mandarin soldiers, and travel in steam-launches under the pretext of searching for contraband, so as to commit depredations. On the 1st inst. at about 9 p.m., when the fleet of passenger boats and launches was nearing the Pig's Head Hills, they saw two launches ahead with pirates on board clad in military uniform. The latter shouted out to them to stop, as they wanted to search for contraband. They refused, as they suspected that at that locality there was never likely to be any mandarin cruiser searching passenger-boats. So they went on with full speed. The two pirate launches opened fire upon them and they retaliated, and the naval engagement kept on for about an hour, until at last the *Kwong Sang* and *Kwong Lee* cut their ropes and abandoned the passenger boats and steamed away. The pirate launches pursued them and took away all their firearms and then left. Meantime the passenger-boats were left at the beach near the temple of the Three Ladies. The passengers after being robbed of all their valuables marched into the village of Wangkong. At first the villagers suspected that they were robbers, and were going to open fire upon them; but afterwards upon enquiry they learnt that they had been themselves robbed by pirates, and that they came to seek succour. The villagers then opened their village-gate, received them and provided them with accommodation at their ancestral temples, until the *Kwong Sang* returned and brought them back to Canton.

SWATOW.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Swatow, 20th January.
FORGERY OF HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK NOTES.

Not long ago the native office of the local branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank had a ten-dollar note tendered to them by a stranger, who demanded silver coins in exchange. After the departure of the unknown person, the Chinese in the office, on close examination, found the note to be a counterfeit one. This revelation put them on the alert. It so happened that a person of rather suspicious aspect went to the same bank to-day and offered a ten-dollar note for change. On careful observation this also proved to be forged. The Chinese in the bank tried to elicit from the man whence he got the note, but he would on no account tell them. They therefore arrested him and threatened him with all the terrors known only to a Chinaman, which had the desired effect, for the man related the whereabouts of the house where he got the note. On receiving this information ten Chinese of the bank proceeded to the place described by the stranger and when they arrived there enquired

for the head of the house. The latter at the time happened to be upstairs, and seeing a lot of unknown people below, suspected that the game was up, and therefore closed hastily a folding door leading to his room, so as to prevent the men from entering. In the meantime he collected a bundle of notes and secreted them in his socks. The men below, however, soon forced their way up, overhauled the man, and found the bundle of forged notes on him. They subsequently arrested him and another man in the house, and had these two, as well as the other accomplice, taken to the Yamen to be kept there pending further investigations.

A GANG SUSPECTED.

It is rumoured that an extensive gang exists here, possessing all the necessary machinery for turning out forged notes. Mr. Munro, the head of Bradley & Co., in the meanwhile informed the British Consul here as well as the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in Hongkong about the occurrence.

SCARE AMONG NATIVE MERCHANTS.

The above described incident caused quite a panic among the native Hongks, and a string of anxious enquirers besieged the local bank to find out if the notes they possessed were genuine or not.

TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

* Tientsin, 11th November, 1900.

THE PAOTINGFU EXPEDITION.

Never was military expedition conducted with less excitement and less incident than that which the Allies have just concluded to Paottingfu. There was fine weather throughout, no fighting, and no loot. They started; marched; found themselves forestalled by the French; blew up a gate and a temple; held a military trial over a few officials; left guards or garrisons and returned to Tientsin. The soldier people are not a little nettled at the ridiculousness which their parturient mountain brought forth, all the more accentuated because of the loud flourish of trumpets with which the coming event was heralded to the world. They are all blaming each other; the British are, as usual, the recipients of the greatest amount of obfuscation. A strong initiative was expected from them, as British subjects had been the chief victims of local atrocity: they put down Sir Arthur Gaselee's timidity to the presence of a political officer, who would do nothing that was not in strict accord with the jots and tittles of official procedure. No doubt this gentleman's version of the story would be something quite different.

THE EXECUTIONS.

I hear from private sources that many things were bungled, and that the Chinese officials managed in not a few cases to put their own gloss on affairs. They, for instance, came out to meet the troops, and were received with the courtesies usually accorded to honourable men; this led them to suppose that they were after all going to be let off very gently, and they acted accordingly. I am told that there was an official notice at or near the gate of the General's quarters, stating that he was the military guest of the officials and was to be treated with courtesy by the people. Great was the astonishment and dismay of these officials when they were subsequently put on their trial. The information that has been made public about this trial is very scanty and exceedingly vague. Five or six of the higher mandarins were charged with taking an active share in the recent Boxer sedition, and with being actively concerned in the deaths of the martyred missionaries; from all I hear it was just a touch-and-go if they did not all escape through the excessive scrupulosity of the political agents. At last a document was discovered in which the infamous Ting Yung, the Provincial Treasurer and Acting-Viceroy, had expressed his conviction that he would have no rest as long as a foreigner was alive within his jurisdiction, or a native Christian disgraced his territory. This of course finished the highly placed villain: he and four or five others were condemned to death. The sentence was at once sent to Peking for the confirmation of Count von Waldersee. I have not been able

* Delayed in transmission.

to discover the method of death, whether they are to be shot, hanged, or beheaded; the soldiers all say that decapitation, either before or after death, is to be an essential part of the punishment so as to impress the native mind; in this case we may assume that the axe, and not the rope or rifle, will be the means of death. After his sentence Ting Jung showed an agony of fear and rage, indulging in the very antics of supreme passion. He went home, threw his official hat on the floor, jumped upon it and tried to pulverise the button, shouting in the meantime the Chinese analogue of the old Hebrew plaint of putting one's trust in princes.

THE INTERNATIONAL ENTENTE.

They say that there was no original intention that the troops should winter in Pao-ting-fu, but as the French suddenly announced their intention of doing so, the Commander-in-Chief thought it best to meet this move by a joint occupation. The military entente is maintained, thanks to the admirable tact and commonsense of the commanders; but none the less is there a latent and constant distrust of each other in little sub-groups among the Powers. The Russians are at their old and well-tried policy of advancing their public interest by individual and unauthorised initiative, knowing that if they succeed, St. Petersburg will sooner or later endorse their efforts and reward their zeal. Europe has the emphatic assertion that Russia does not seek territorial aggrandisement, but nevertheless have the Russian consular authorities notified the other consulates here that their military leaders regard the eastern bank of the Pei-ho, right opposite the three foreign settlements, as the conquest of war; and that they will not recognize land transfers to foreigners which are dated later than June 20th, 1900. This is nothing less than colossal and amazing impudence, to say nothing of injustice; coupled with the persistent efforts to secure the railway, it points to an occult and deep-laid scheme of attaining predominance in Tientsin. Russian trade in this port is entirely confined to the transport tea business; when the railway is completed to Talienwan this will diminish to microscopic proportions. If they keep their grip on the railway—a railway, remember, that is in pawn to English capitalists and that has been built and run by Englishmen—and our river fails to improve, the whole trade of our port will be at the mercy of the Russians. I personally cannot believe that any Europeans could ever perpetrate the enormity of confiscating the property of great numbers of Chinese private owners. To my knowledge not a few of our "boys" and followers have invested their little savings on this ground and great numbers of them lived before this upheaval in the villages that used to cover the ground. Notices are up forbidding these poor folk to rebuild; and it looks as if confiscation pure and simple were in the air. Not a few British merchants have holdings on this ground; it will be curious to see if the history of Messrs. Jardine at Hankow is repeated in Tientsin.

PEACE PROSPECTS.

A private note from Chang Yen-mow in Peking received here two days ago stated that negotiations would probably begin, as far as the Chinese were concerned, in about a week. This is poor diplomatic news to send, but it is practically all I have to say on the public situation. The mere fact that the First Bengal Lancers, the Royal Welsh and others have left us for the South shows that the military and political authorities are inclining to the view that Southern China may soon be the centre of interest.

WINTER ACCOMMODATION.

After an exceptionally hot autumn, the cold weather has suddenly sprung upon us, and the one idea of the military is now to get into sheltered quarters. It is a large and very serious problem, by no means settled yet. The health of the troops has on the whole been admirable, and the generous measures of the Indian Government have not yet been put to the test as regards field hospitals and medical comforts. I think, however, it was an indiscretion to make Weihaiwei the chief and almost only store for these comforts. The Indian Government, as far as it was concerned, was resolved to have no medical scandal; but none the less might one have happened if there had been a big influx of

enteric cases at Tientsin from the Pao-ting-fu expedition. Red-tape will at any time strangle all the best intentions in the world; it is compliance with the formalities of rules drawn up in times of peace, which are inapplicable in the great emergencies of war, that is the cause of all medical scandals. I myself saw one or two incidents last week which, if multiplied a few times, would have created a grave case of official bungling. Things were urgently wanted—but were not to be found. "I know there are lots of them at Weihaiwei," said one of the attendants, but this was not of much use in Tientsin.

THE REPORTED SUICIDES.

The Chinese are retailing stories of the suicide of great officials with much zest, but as there is no means of corroboration, and as there are excellent reasons why such rumours should be spread in these critical times, it is well not to place too much credit in them. The notorious extortioner Kang Yi and the arch-villain Yu Hsien have been already got rid of by this easy method—just as Nana Sahib was after the Indian Mutiny.

SOME CHINESE TRICKS.

The Tientsin Provisional Government the other day had to deal with a very curious charge:—A Chinaman had cut off his queue and had rigged himself out as an American sailor, even to the detail of his underlinen: he then put himself at the head of a body of men and went forth to levy blackmail at discretion. They were discovered by the merest accident, and had a most ingenious defence. The man was, however, convicted and sentenced to death, for theft is at present a capital crime in the native city. Chinese ingenuity is hard to beat when it is bent to the perennial subject of squeeze: the clever rogues have recently taken to the device of compliment. Under the pretence of a profound admiration of the superhuman justice and equity of their foreign municipal rulers, they have started the collection of subscriptions with which to present silk umbrellas and what-nots to our Aristides. The rogues go round; the residents don't know but that the foreigners are in the swim; they dare not refuse to pay, and so Autolycus gets his own. The development is that the foreigners have now had to forego these flattering tokens of civic and administrative integrity.

A SAD STORY.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* publishes one of the most pathetic bits of correspondence I have ever read—the last two letters of Mrs Atwater, of Fen-chou-fu. They repeat the story in brief of the massacres at Tai-yuan-fu and Tai-ku. The letters breathe the very spirit of Christian martyrdom, combined with courage and rare fortitude. The poor lady's latter moments were intensely saddened by the terrible news that her own two daughters had been massacred among the thirty-three victims of Yu-hsien's devilish lair at Tai-yuan-fu. She states that the proclamations at Fen-chou-fu stated that whoever killed a foreigner would be doing the Governor a service. It is reading like this that makes one intolerant of the scrupulosity which abets the escape of ruffians from justice.

UNSUBSTANTIAL RUMOURS.

The *Phoenix* is to be the guardship this winter at Taku, and is already housed in snugly at Sinho, about a mile above Tongku. Southerners are not to be in any way alarmed at the exceedingly silly reports about Chinese concentration and attack when the river is closed. The foreign forces in North China are able to deal with any force the Chinese Empire could bring against them; and indeed the soldiers of all nations would wish for nothing better than that the Chinese would give them the chance of active operations.

Later.

THE NAVAL HONOURS.

The Reuter announcing the naval honours has just come in. Most undoubtedly the Victoria Cross to Midshipman Basil Guy of the *Barfleur* has given the greatest satisfaction to Tientsin. This gallant lad's bravery is only surpassed by his modesty and self-repression: I had the pleasure to be in the same mess with him for a time during his residence in Tientsin, and never once did I hear him talk shop, or make the remotest reference to his own action. It is a curious coincidence that the other *Barfleur* midshipman who was in the mess was also to

be mentioned for the Victoria Cross "for conspicuous gallantry in the field"; unhappily death interfered to this case. I refer to Mr. Philip Donaldson. The honours list, while containing no unexpected names, has a shocking lot of omissions, and this quite apart from the inevitable bad luck that inevitably attends many heroic actions. One or two of the finest things done here were by the man in command of the men present; they could not of course recommend or even refer to themselves. Everybody is lost in wonder at the omission of two names—all the more marked because all the other officers of equal rank have received C. B.'s.

PEKING ITEMS.

A correspondent writes from Peking:—Mr. Schiern, many years resident in Tientsin and the foreign agent for Sheng's line called the Chinese Telegraphic Administration, has arrived in Peking, presumably on telegraphic service. Important Chinese employees formerly Sheng's are also in the Peking office, stated to be in the Tsungli Yamen. No cable employees are, I believe, in Peking.

The Chinese are said to be demurring at the prohibition against their having arms; and demanding the right to re-construct the Taku Forts in five years.

The Chinese here are very cheeky, rickshas and everything else being dear. The railway is badly managed and it is a terrible matter getting any goods up to Peking by rail, and no small trouble taking up Chinese servants.

Prince Su, the Emperor's younger brother, presented himself to Count von Waldersee the other day and offered to go to Germany on the special mission of apology. I believe his offer has been accepted.

The general impression here is that the peace is a patched up affair after all: many opine there will be fresh trouble in the spring, but whether caused by international complications or Chinese perversity is not quite clear.

There seems no truth in the assertion that the Emperor has left Hsian-fu: it was probably Prince Su's departure from there which gave rise to the report, as, although he makes out he has been in Peking all the time, there is reason to believe he only reached Peking some ten days ago.

I note the following in Peking Orders of a recent date, which is commendable.

"The following decision of the International Committee for the Administration of Peking will be observed by the troops of all nationalities with the exception, for the present, of the French, to whom these decisions are not applicable:—

Offences of Chinamen against individuals belonging to one of the contingents and vice versa should always be dealt with by the contingent to whom the individual belongs, no matter in which district the offence may occur.

Offences of Chinese against Chinese are to be dealt with by the contingent occupying the district in which the offence has occurred.

Persons implicated should, if necessary, be handed over to the contingent in question.

As a general rule, passes are not required by Chinamen, either within or without Peking, and should not be furnished. To meet exceptional cases where it is considered desirable to issue passes to Chinamen travelling to and from places at a considerable distance from Peking, an international pass in German, English, French, Russian, Japanese and Italian, has been prepared. These will be numbered and a record of issues kept. The owners should be protected, but if they misconduct themselves, their passes should be confiscated and forwarded with a brief statement of the case to the office that has issued the pass.

As arrangements have been made for the supply of as much firewood as is required, demolition of buildings, for the purpose of fuel, is prohibited, except as regards such as are selected for destruction, with a view to punishing the owners."—*P. and T. Times*.

Among the list of officers previously posted for service in China, who in consequence of the trend of events have been ordered home, is Major Kirkpatrick, Assistant Adjutant General, Burma District.

HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LIMITED.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the above company was held on Tuesday, the 5th inst. The Hon. J. J. Keswick presided, and there were also present Messrs. N. A. Siebs, A. Haupt, R. Shewan, F. A. Gomes, and P. Witkowski (Directors), T. Arnold (Secretary), A. Tillet, Erich Georg, G. T. Veitch, F. Henderson, H. M. Mohta, S. A. Joseph, C. S. Sharp, W. H. Purcell, A. H. M. da Silva, J. Goosmann, D. E. Brown and E. J. Moses.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—If you approve, Gentlemen, we will take the report and accounts as read. I shall not detain you with many remarks, as the result of the half-year's working and the present position of the company are so fully explained in the statements now laid before you that there is but little for one to comment upon. Your Directors are pleased that the improvement in the earnings warrants the payment of a bonus of two per cent. in addition to the usual dividend of eight per cent. for the half-year, and admits also of the substantial increase of \$50,000 to the equalisation of dividend fund. The suggestion that a further sum of \$70,000 be passed to this fund from the investment fluctuation account will doubtless commend itself to shareholders. Our investments have so largely increased in value and stand in our books at such favourable rates, that the sum of \$161,753.68, which will remain after the proposed transfer has been made, is, in the opinion of the Board, an ample reserve to meet any possible fluctuation in the value of investments, while the desirability of building up the equalisation of dividend fund as opportunity offers, to ensure the payment of regular dividends, will doubtless be apparent to all. With regard to the sale of the West River steamers and lighters and our temporary withdrawal from the direct line on the West River, I may say that this course was adopted only after very careful consideration, but your directors hope that with the probable approaching settlement of affairs in the North, they may be able to resume the trade at an early date under more favourable auspices.

The Nanning, the first of the new joint account sternwheelers for the Canton and Wuchow line, has now been running for some time, and I am pleased to say, is a favourite boat with passengers. Under the more favourable regulations which we confidently look for, there is but little doubt that these boats can be worked profitably. I may say that the current half-year has opened well, and as far as we can judge, there is every reason to expect that the improvement in our earnings will be maintained. With these few remarks, gentlemen, I would propose the adoption of the report and accounts as presented, but before doing so I shall be pleased to answer any questions which shareholders may wish to ask.

There being no questions the report and statement of accounts was adopted on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. GOOSMANN.

On the motion of Captain TILLET, seconded by Mr. GEORG, the election of Mr. Witkowski as a director was confirmed.

Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and F. Henderson were re-elected auditors, on the motion of Mr. JOSEPH, seconded by Mr. VEITCH.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, I am very much obliged to you for your attendance. That concludes the business. The dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow at ten o'clock.

A very clever piece of work has been executed this week by Mr. Bellingham in the bringing of the great bell from Hai-kuan-su to the public Gardens, where we believe it will be suspended in due course, says the P. & T. Times of the 12th ult. The bell was presented some twenty-five years ago to Li Hung-chang by Messrs. Krupp, and was cast in Germany. It was then presented by Li to a Temple on the East side of the City, we believe, but the bell proving too large, it was transferred to the Hai-kuan-su, whence its sweet if somewhat mournful tone has reached us ever since. The bell was presented to the British Municipality by General Dorward and Colonel Fukushima.

KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The 12th ordinary meeting of shareholders in the above company was held at the company's offices, Victoria Buildings, on Thursday, 3rd ult. Mr. F. Henderson presided, and there were also present Messrs. J. Goosmann, J. H. Cox (directors), A. Shelton Hooper (Secretary), T. Skinner, Erich Georg, M. S. Nertheote, and T. H. Reid.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN Gentlemen: the report now before you, and which with your permission we will consider as read, so nearly resembles that of last year that it does not seem to call for any comment whatever. You will have noticed that the rentals have increased. The houses have been fully occupied all the time, and the property has been kept in good repair, but unfortunately at a cost of about \$1,200 over that of last year. This additional outlay has been caused by the rain-storm of last year, which carried away the retaining wall, which had to be rebuilt. With your permission it is proposed to pay a dividend of \$1.30 per share. With these very few remarks, gentlemen, I would propose the adoption of the report, but before doing so I shall be glad to answer any question in my power to do so.

Mr. REID—Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask a question. Has it ever occurred to the directors of the company to extend the business on the Kowloon side. It seems to me there is a growing demand for houses at Kowloon, and besides adding to the value of their own property by purchasing ground in the neighbourhood they might do something to extend their business on the Kowloon side and justify their existence as a Kowloon Land and Building Company.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, Mr. Reid, the directors quite agree with you in believing that the demand for houses on the other side now would almost justify the extension of building, but against that at the present moment some arrangement would require to be come to with all the tenants before the present leases run out.

Mr. REID—I think you misunderstand me. The same misunderstanding occurred when I spoke about the matter last year. I do not mean you to go and build on the tennis lawns in front of Knutsford Terrace. What I mean is that the business of the company might be extended by raising more capital, buying more land, and building more houses. What I say is that there is a demand for more houses at Kowloon, and I am quite convinced that if the company were to extend the business it would have an increased return from the houses that it built on the other side.

The CHAIRMAN—But you know that last year the directors had it in contemplation. There is one question, and that is as to whether the cost of land in Kowloon would justify our purchasing some and commencing building operations. However, we will give your suggestion every consideration.

Mr. REID—I would like to say again it is obvious that if it pays other people to purchase land at Kowloon and build houses it ought to pay this company, which has existed for some time for the ostensible purpose of purchasing land and building at Kowloon.

The CHAIRMAN—It was scarcely started with that idea, yet that is no reason why it should not be done now. But you must remember that the bulk of the land at Kowloon was got at rates which could not purchase it now.

Mr. REID—Yet people still are buying land.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes but there are some people who are prepared to take more risks than we.

Mr. GOOSMANN—These are principally Chinese.

The report was then adopted, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. GEORG.

Messrs. Henderson and Goosmann were re-elected directors, on the motion of Mr. SKINNER, seconded by Mr. GEORG.

Messrs. Thos. Arnold and W. H. Gaskell were re-elected auditors, on the motion of Mr. SKINNER, seconded by Mr. REID.

The CHAIRMAN—There is no further business. Dividend warrants will be ready on application to-morrow morning.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The following is the seventy-first report of the court of directors to the ordinary half-yearly general meeting of shareholders, to be held at the City Hall, Hongkong, on Saturday, the 16th February, at noon.

To the Proprietors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation:

Gentlemen.—The directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the Bank, and balance sheet for the half-year ending 31st December, 1900.

The net profits for that period, including \$1,717,543.29, balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, deducting interest paid and due, and making provision for bad and doubtful accounts, amount to \$3,961,272.65.

The directors recommend the transfer of \$1,000,000 from the profit and loss account to credit of the silver reserve fund, which fund will then stand at \$3,000,000.

After making this transfer and deducting remuneration to directors, there remains for appropriation \$2,946,272.65, out of which the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of one pound and ten shillings sterling per share, which at 4.6 will absorb \$33,333.33, and a bonus of ten shillings sterling per share, which at 4.6 will absorb \$177,777.78.

The difference in exchange between 4/6, the rate at which the dividend and bonus are declared, and 2/1, the rate of the day, amounts to \$824,888.89.

The balance, \$1,410,272.65, to be carried to new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. R. Shewan has been elected chairman for the year 1901; and Hon. J. J. Keswick deputy chairman.

Mr. Ernst Goetz having resigned his seat on leaving the Colony, Mr. Paul Witkowski has been invited to fill the vacancy; the appointment requires confirmation at this meeting.

The Honourable J. J. Keswick and Mr. D. M. Moses retire in rotation, but being eligible for re-election offer themselves accordingly.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. F. Henderson and Mr. C. S. Sharp, who offer themselves for re-election.

N. A. SIEBS,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 4th February, 1901.

ABSTRACT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

31ST DECEMBER, 1900.

| LIABILITIES. | \$ c. |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Paid-up capital | 10,900,000.00 |
| Sterling reserve fund | 10,000,000.00 |
| Silver reserve fund | 2,000,000.00 |
| Marine insurance account | 250,000.00 |
| Notes in circulation:— | |

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Authorised issue against securities deposited with the Crown Agents for the Colonies | 10,000,000.00 |
| Additional issue au- thorised by Hongkong Ordinance No. 19 of 1900, against coin lodged with the Hong- kong Government | 2,513,461.67 |
| Current accounts:— | 12,513,461.67 |
| Silver | 66,973,501.69 |
| Gold, £1,903,636.8s. 4d = | 18,265,711.01 |
| | 85,241,261.10 |
| Fixed deposits:— | |
| Silver | 33,514,611.19 |
| Gold, £1,332,563.14.11d = | 31,986,015.52 |
| | 65,501,423.51 |
| Bills payable (including drafts on Lon- don bankers and short sight drawings on London office against bills re- ceivable, and bullion shipments) | 21,900,536.85 |
| Profit and loss account | 3,961,272.65 |
| Liability on bills of exchange re- discounted, £5,231,834.11s. 3d. of which up to this date £3,303,660 have run off. | |

\$211,457,722.78

| ASSETS. | \$ c. |
|---|---------------|
| Cash | 38,850,348.10 |
| Coin lodged with the Hongkong Go- vernment against note circulation in excess of \$10,000,000 | 3,000,000.00 |
| Bullion in hand and in transit | 9,977,251.14 |
| Inland Government rupee paper | 2,343,042.49 |
| Consols, Colonial and other securities | 7,143,161.86 |
| Sterling reserve fund investments, viz.:— | |

| | \$ c. |
|---|-------------------------|
| £250,000 2½ per cent. Consols lodged with the Bank of England as a special London reserve, at 95 £237,500 | 1,900,000.00 |
| £252,500 2½ per cent. Consols, £270,000 2½ per cent. National War Loan, at 90 £470,250 | 4,702,500.00 |
| £353,500 other sterling securities standing in the books, at £339,750. 3,397,500.00 | |
| Bills discounted, loans and credits | 10,000,000.00 |
| Bills receivable | 71,240,987.25 |
| Bank premises | 68,549,588.07 |
| | <u>344,343.87</u> |
| | <u>\$211,457,722.78</u> |

GENERAL PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT,
31st DECEMBER, 1900.

| Dr. | \$ c. |
|---|-----------------------|
| To amounts written off:— | |
| Remuneration to directors | 15,000.00 |
| To dividend account:— | |
| £1.10/- per share on 80,000 shares = £120,000 at 4/6 | 533,333.33 |
| Bonus of 10/- per share on 80,000 shares = £40,000 at 4/6 | 177,777.78 |
| | <u>711,111.11</u> |
| To dividend adjustment account:— | |
| Difference in exchange between 4/6, the rate at which the dividend and bonus are declared, and 2/1, the current rate of the day | 824,888.89 |
| To transfer to silver reserve fund | 1,000,000.00 |
| To balance forward to next half year | 1,410,272.65 |
| | <u>\$3,961,272.65</u> |

| Cr. | \$ c. |
|---|-----------------------|
| By balance of undivided profits, 30th June, 1900 | 1,717,543.29 |
| By amount of net profits for the six months ending 31st December, 1900, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, deducting all expenses and interest paid and due | 2,243,729.36 |
| | <u>3,961,272.65</u> |
| | <u>\$3,961,272.65</u> |

STERLING RESERVE FUND.

| To balance | \$ c. |
|--|------------------------|
| | 10,000,000.00 |
| | <u>\$10,000,000.00</u> |
| By balance 30th June, 1900 (invested in sterling securities) | 10,000,000.00 |
| | <u>\$10,000,000.00</u> |

SILVER RESERVE FUND.

| To balance | \$ c. |
|--|-----------------------|
| | 3,000,000.00 |
| | <u>\$3,000,000.00</u> |
| By balance 30th June, 1900 | 2,000,000.00 |
| By transfer from profit and loss account | 1,000,000.00 |
| | <u>\$3,000,000.00</u> |

THE HONGKONG ICE CO., LIMITED.

The following is the twentieth annual report of the above Company:—

The general managers have pleasure in submitting a statement of the Company's accounts for the year 1900.

Including \$3,624.14 brought forward from the previous year and after deducting \$10,000 paid as an interim dividend of \$2 per share, the balance at credit of profit and loss account is \$81,565.32, which it is recommended should be appropriated as follows:—

A final dividend of \$10 per share ... \$50,000.00
To write off property account ... 12,066.87
Towards providing for cold storage 15,000.00
To carry forward ... 4,498.45

\$81,565.32
Frequent enquiries in regard to cold storage have decided the general managers to provide what appears to be a public want. The necessary buildings are now in course of erection, and the requisite plant has been ordered.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 31st January, 1901.

| | ASSETS. | \$ c. |
|--|------------|---------------------|
| Property account | 112,066.87 | |
| Disbursements account, cold storage | 19,104.47 | |
| Invested in:— | | |
| Hongkong Fire Insurance Co.'s share | 225.00 | |
| China Fire Insurance Co.'s share | 85.00 | |
| Canton Insurance Office's share | 120.00 | |
| Debentures in Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited | 10,000.00 | |
| Cash on hand | 470.31 | |
| Hongkong and Shanghai Bank current account | 23,193.19 | |
| Outstanding accounts | 4,074.05 | |
| Accounts receivable | 486.00 | |
| Ice on hand | 180.00 | |
| Coal on hand | 270.00 | |
| Jardine, Matheson & Co. | 50,500.00 | |
| | | <u>\$225,783.89</u> |

| | LIABILITIES. | \$ c. |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Capital | 125,000.00 | |
| Accounts payable | 7,061.78 | |
| Ammonia reserve account | 12,156.79 | |
| Profit and loss account | 81,565.32 | |
| | | <u>\$225,783.89</u> |

| | PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT. | \$ c. |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|
| To salaries, wages, and general trade expenses | 32,955.22 | |
| To general managers' commission | 2,000.00 | |
| To auditor's fee | 150.00 | |
| | | <u>\$35.105.22</u> |
| To interim dividend of 8 per cent. paid on 27th July, 1900 | 10,000.00 | |
| To balance | 81,565.32 | |
| | | <u>\$126,670.54</u> |
| By balance brought forward from last year | 3,624.14 | |
| By receipt for ice during the year, value of stock in hand, &c. | 117,603.05 | |
| By rents received (less Crown rents and taxes paid) | 1,757.78 | |
| By interest | 3,651.57 | |
| By transfer fees | 34.00 | |
| | | <u>\$126,670.54</u> |

'CHANGE DOINGS.'

The financial stringency to which I alluded last month, and which had prevailed more or less during the whole of last year, having considerably eased off, the January settlement passed off in a most satisfactory fashion. Instead of the dreaded "slump" that had been foreshadowed, we had, on the contrary, a very sharp rise all round, which continued down to the very day of settlement.

The heaviest settling was in Lands and Indos, and both were cleared off with apparent ease, the market at no time appearing over-loaded. Holders of the former stock must have felt considerable satisfaction when they found their confidence in the concern was amply justified, as was shown by the excellent statement put before the meeting. The closing cash rate is \$200, ex div., and on time business was done for March and April on the same basis.

The Bank's statement (subject to audit) for the final half-year has been made known, and a magnificent statement it is too. The cry "dull times," which has been heard all round in consequence of the Chinese crisis, is still ringing in our ears, and yet this Bank manages to pile up its millions of profit, alike unhindered and unharmed by political disturbances, be they produced by the machinations of the wily Muscovite in Far Cathay, or the obstinacy of the doughty Boer in South Africa. Verily, it is a magician's wand that the great "Teajay" wields. In the face of such results it seems inconceivable that the market should be adversely affected, nevertheless it has so happened. The reason for this anomaly perhaps is not far to seek. It had been an open secret for some time that the profits would be "a record," and it was generally understood that a bonus of twenty shillings would be declared. Even in "high quarters" it was so anticipated, and in this, of course, the "expectant crowd on the curbstone" followed suit. Naturally, the disappointment was very keen when it became known that a ten shilling bonus was declared. Judging from mere figures, a twenty shilling bonus was not an unreasonable expectation. It will be remembered that two years ago a twenty shilling bonus was declared, when the profits were not quite up to the present figures and

the Reserve Fund stood at ten millions, while now that Fund stands at twelve and a half millions, presently to be increased to thirteen and a half. However, there is nothing to croak for. The present value is a seven per cent. investment, and this should be good enough for the most exacting investor. Since the figures were published business has been very limited, only a few small lots changing hands at 360 and 364 for March and April respectively. Cash-shares were booked at 350 and a point under. A waiting game is being played by the "big bugs," who are looking forward to a "slump" in March, the settlement for that month being undoubtedly heavy. But now verrons.

Docks, since the resolution for the conversion of the Reserve Fund into capital was finally confirmed, have been careering merrily upward, the highest point touched being \$30 per cent. cash. Forward business was transacted at more than equivalent rates, and 67½ per cent. for August was willingly paid.

In connection with the conversion of the Reserve Fund into capital, an impression seems to prevail that the capital so converted will not bear any dividend, or rather that the same dividend hitherto given will be spread over both the old and new capital. Such a suggestion is obviously absurd, for it would really amount to this, that the old shares will get less return than heretofore. Surely it was not to attain this result that those concerned worked so laboriously, to say nothing of the heavy legal expenses incurred by the company. Of course the day may come when the Dock Company will have to declare a smaller dividend, but that will be in the event of its earning power diminishing. Present indications, however, do not point in that direction.

In the shipping line a good deal of activity has been displayed. Indos have been very much to the fore, going up by leaps and bounds. Cash shares are extremely difficult to obtain, offers of \$110.00 cash, towards the settlement, hardly meeting with any response. A considerable time business has been put through, \$116 for June being the highest reported. It is a matter of common knowledge that this company has had a wonderfully good year. There can be no doubt it has seen its worst days and may safely be recognised as a good investment. Both China Manilas and Steamboats have attracted attention, the former touching \$75 cash, and \$79 for March, receding a little latterly. Steamboats were done up to \$35½ cash. The Company has just declared its usual dividend of \$1.20, besides a bonus of 30 cents.

Sugars were strongly enquired after in the last few days, which caused them to make a rapid advance, \$122 cash failing to bring out shares. It is said that this sudden demand is caused by the intended change of duty in Japan. Luzons also were booked at \$39, closing in some demand.

Kowloon Wharves have improved their position somewhat, and buyers would be prepared to pay \$91 for shares.

Hotels, after touching \$125, appear to be out of favour again at a point lower. There is a talk that the half-yearly statement will not come up to expectation.

Humphreys have been well to the front for some time, their position further improving by the Chairman's statement that the dividend for the current year is already assured.

A hand-to-mouth business has been doing in Cements, more at \$19½ than \$20.

A department, which had hitherto been very much neglected, the Insurance group, claimed a good deal of public attention of late. Both the Fire Companies advanced several points, Chinas up to \$85 and Hongkongs to \$315. The former, however, have weakened a little since. China Traders moved from \$52 up to \$56 with a fair business.

Hongkong Cottons have played a sea-saw game during the month. When it was seen that the General Agents were prepared to provide further funds a rush was made for shares. The rate of \$5, at which they then stood, was soon pushed into double figures, rising finally to \$22. This latter figure tempted several holders, who anxiously came in the market, to be among the first to realise. The result, as was to be expected, was an overloading of the market and a rapid decline, the rate closing at \$14 sellers. It seems a great pity that such a large indus-

trial institution should have had the checkered career it has had, but it has now got over most of the difficulties it had to contend with. Its yarn production is being readily bought up by the Chinese, and as the demand for that is now more regular, its future certainly looks full of promise.

ESA.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IN HONGKONG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 31st January.

SIR,—It is with feelings of regret and disgust that I read in your issue of yesterday the speech made by the Bishop of Victoria at the recent prize distribution in the Diocesan School, in which he voiced his opinion on the mixing of European and Chinese children at school.

As one who takes a great interest in missionary enterprise in China, I am astonished that the leader of the missionary body, and the head (so to speak) of Christianity in this dark corner of the sphere, should so forget himself as to give utterance to the terms used. Did the Bishop give his opinion from a Christian point of view, when he said he did not think they mixed? Surely the "gulf between the Chinaman as a Chinaman and an Englishman as an Englishman" could be only the one thing—the space that separates the dark depths of heathenism with one from the enlightened heights of Christianity with the other. Can it be then that the Bishop has no desire to see that gulf removed? I cannot comprehend why he did not think it was a good thing for English boys to be educated side by side with Chinese boys. He felt it was not a good thing for Chinese boys to be educated side by side with English boys. From this, it would seem that it was not from a moral standpoint. Where, then, is the motive for separating them, and, as a Christian, why does he desire to make some distinction between the two races?

If Chinamen are to be trained up to be Chinamen, I do not think it is necessary for Englishmen to do it. What have missionaries come to China for? Have they not come to preach the gospel truth and to reform its people? Have they not come to lay before the Chinese that which has made Englishmen what they are to-day? If this is not so, and Chinamen are to remain Chinamen in the full sense of the word, then missionaries might just as well stay at home.

But again, what has prompted our worthy Bishop to criticise the principles of the Government? Does not the Queen's College offer every facility for an excellent education? It does, and, proud to say, the authorities are Christian enough not to make any distinction between Europeans and Chinese. Both races enjoy the same privileges, and so far nothing, I believe, has happened to point out the advisability of separating them.

Referring to "A Parent's" letter in your issue of to-day, I would suggest that, if Hongkong schools are not good enough for his children, he had better waste his time no longer among a people with whom he does not wish his children to associate, but take them home and have them educated.

Thanking you in anticipation for the insertion of this letter, I am, yours, &c.

INTERESTED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 4th February.

SIR,—The speech made by the Bishop in the Diocesan Home has created quite a commotion, as will be seen from the correspondence column of the paper. I, being a born subject of Hongkong, naturally feel myself interested in any question pertaining to the welfare of my own people and that of people of other races; and therefore feel myself under obligation to express my opinions, however meagre and puerile they may seem to others, in regard to this all-absorbing topic—for all educational questions are important.

It is a latent desire implanted in the heart of an animal that he should preserve himself in the struggle for existence which, however, in the case of man, is under the Law of Love. Now it is quite natural for the Bishop to say, without premeditation probably, that "he did not believe it was a good thing to put the two races side by side in the school." Had I been in the Bishop's place I would have spoken the same thing perhaps as the Bishop had spoken. Anyhow I believe unwaveringly that the Bishop was actuated by pure motives in proposing such a thing; but pure motives do not necessarily make a thing right. Pure motives must be substantiated by facts and sound philosophy. It is not enough to have pure motives while facts and principles are all disregarded; and if both of these are against them, it is time for us to put away the question.

The Utilitarian philosophy of Bentham can help us greatly in this question: whether the good accruing from excluding Asiatics in certain schools can counterbalance the evil resulted therefrom. If so I am exceedingly glad to see this carried out to perfection for the sake of mankind at large, even at the expense of my own people; if not, I hope the Bishop and those who have followed in his wake and hailed "the Bishop as a leader in this absolutely essential reform" will reconsider the matter again.

The first point to be noted is the race element involved in this discussion. A glance at the history of the world will convince any one that the so many wars are only the manifestations of hatred between one race and another; and that the obliteration of distinction between races is the one great progress of the world. The Chinese were, as every one knows, quite anti-foreign, and not until late years have they been led to extirpate that idea. It must be every one's desire to see the Chinese living in friendly terms with foreigners; and in order to effect that there must be some way to neutralise this race feeling; and school, I believe, is the great factor to accomplish this, where, when the minds of children are passive and plastic, they may be educated together and then very soon they may forget the race element existing in their hearts. It seems to me that it is the duty of the Government to look more seriously into this important matter and give every facility to that end. Now to exclude Chinese from certain schools means to go against the law of nature and to aggravate the hatred between Chinese and foreigners, and hence intercourse between them will become more difficult and mutual misunderstandings will be very soon precipitated. The chief work that Christianity has done and is still doing is that of extinguishing out the race element feeling and of consolidating the different races under one Faith, one Feeling, one Sympathy. When I was at school one thing struck me very much and gave me the greatest pain, and this thing was that the line between Chinese and foreigners was too plainly and sharply drawn; and it was my great desire then to find some means to put a stop to this. Therefore the Bishop, if he knows this, will instead of advocating such so-called reform, lend a helping hand to fuse the two races together and blend their differences in feeling into mutual sympathy.

It is worth noticing that man always tends to lower himself down morally; and it is a fact that Chinese at the very beginning generally learn what is bad in foreigners, and vice versa, which condition is a deplorable thing. The Bishop and his followers might justly denounce such, and infer from it that Europeans should have separate schools, whereby they may not be contaminated with the bad morals of the Chinese. But we must know that this deplorable condition is inevitable, but undoubtedly temporary; and to sacrifice a permanent good for a temporary one is a thing unrecommendable. To sacrifice the happiness of the future world for that of the present is a great mistake; and for the mere fact that European boys might be infected with the bad morals of the Celestials, the great permanent good of extinguishing out the hatred resulting from difference of race, from combining the race elements together, may be sacrificed—such thing, if actually done, is greatly to be lamented.

My experience goes to show that, as a rule, European boys in school generally deprecate things Chinese, and therefore there is no need to fear that European boys might learn any bad

method of thinking peculiar to the Chinese, while, at the same time, those Chinese who study English generally make an effort to imitate anything European. It has been my great pride to see so many boys of my own country interested in sports at Queen's College, whereas five years ago, when I was there, scarcely could there be found a boy taking any interest in bodily exercises, much less in outdoor recreation and sport. This condition has been brought about by associating the Chinese with the Europeans, while I sincerely believe that the European boys will never be in the danger of falling into the slothfulness, sluggishness, and indifference to sports of the Chinese. It may be urged that there will be danger to European boys to follow the pharisaical customs of the Celestials. Do you think that there is any European boy so foolish as to prostrate himself before his superiors? As to shut up his wife and daughters in a harem? As to bind up the feet of women? As to fetter himself with formalism? Not at all. This suggests another question as to how the Chinese might extirpate these bad customs. Certainly not by separating the Chinese from the Europeans, but by having them both educated in the same school side by side. I am exceedingly glad to see that many English-speaking young men are gradually putting away their old, out-of-fashion, cruel customs; but I am very sorry to see that not a small number have picked up many indecent and bad customs of the Europeans, and in this—in this only—I believe what the Bishop wishes, "to train up the Chinaman to be a Chinaman and not half a Chinaman and half an Englishman."

Few things more I should like to dwell upon. The first is to have a school especially for small children, it is not a good thing for small children to be educated side by side with old boys, and the lack of this Colony is such a school. If after all, many wish very earnestly to have a school particularly for Europeans, I think that the Government, being supposed to be impartial and to look after only the welfare of its people, should not lend its help, but leave the whole matter in the hands of those who are interested in it. As the Government ought not to show any particular favour to one religion to the exclusion of the other and must do things with disregard of religion, so it ought not to show particular favour to one race to the exclusion of other races and must do things with disregard of race. Religious Liberty has been the cry of Europe. Race Liberty is the cry of the World. Protestants can open schools for Protestants, Roman Catholics for Roman Catholics, Mohammedans for Mohammedans, but the Government should not endow any one of these; therefore the English can open schools for English, Indians for Indians, Japanese for Japanese, and Chinese for Chinese, but the Government should not in this case endow any of these schools. Government schools should be free from Religion and Race.

As Hongkong is the emporium of the Far East, it seems to me quite strange that it has not a Technical Academy, much less a University, where Chinese and foreigners can go and have equal rights and an equal voting. I would like to suggest that Queen's College might be changed into such if the Governor takes the matter into his hands, while funds for such an undertaking can easily be obtained from the merchants, both foreign and Chinese.

It has been in my mind that the courses of study given in Queen's College do not give quite a liberal education to many Chinese and foreigners. What a grand thing to have this carried out and make Hongkong the seat of learning of the Far East!—Yours, etc.,

WANG HUNG-YU.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 5th February.

SIR,—I wish through your columns to thank the writer of the letter on the above subject which appeared in your issue of last Saturday under the nom de plume of "Interested."

The Bishop's remarks, denunciatory of the present system of mixed schools in Hongkong, have been read with feelings of pain and indignation by the foreign-educated Chinese here, and were more of them able to express their feelings in public print, the local papers would be overwhelmed with "copy" for their correspondence columns for many days to come.

What grieves the Chinese more particularly is that the remarks under criticism have been uttered by the Bishop, who, in the same breath that he condemns the association of the races in the schools, announces he has spent more than half his life-time in teaching Chinese boys. If the Reverend Bishop's opinion of Chinese boys after having taught them more than half his life-time is that they are not fit to be educated side by side with those of his own race, then all I can say is that the sooner he directs his efforts to other more worthy channels, the better for him.

The Bishop says he did not know how the practice of co-racial education had grown up. Let me inform him that this practice had its origin from the sympathies of large-minded Christian men, those who inaugurated and were responsible for the establishment of the educational institutions of this Colony, men who, though neither Bishops nor members of the clergy, possessed hearts that were not circumscribed by considerations of race or colour.

What, pray, are the Bishop's objections to the present system of mixed education? Is it on moral grounds? Can it be that he is afraid of the contact of Christianity with paganism, of occidental with oriental civilisation? Is it the fear lest western civilisation might not prove an equal match against eastern character and influence? The very fact of the Bishop and all those of his profession coming to Hongkong and devoting their energies to the teaching of the Chinese would plainly indicate that they regard their religion and civilisation as superior to those of the natives—why, then, should he object to every possible means by which the Chinese character may be uplifted? If western civilisation is superior to the eastern, they cannot do better than being thrown into mutual contact as often as possible, in order that the latter may be gradually uplifted to the level of the former.

The Bishop says (and I wish to lay special emphasis on this point) there was a gulf between the Chinaman as a Chinaman, and an Englishman as an Englishman, and he did not think it was good for English boys to be educated by the side with Chinese boys. Ought not the Bishop, considering his profession and avowed sympathies, to mourn over the existence of this gulf which tends to retard the millennium and universal brotherhood, as inculcated by Scripture, instead of advocating a policy, the direct effect of which is to perpetuate and even accentuate this gulf? Or is it the Bishop's desire to see this gulf continue to the end of time?

Small wonder that the work of proselytism makes such snail-like progress in Hongkong, when this racial gulf is openly acknowledged by its highest ecclesiastical authority, and yet even an indirect effort to embridge it is roundly condemned.

In conclusion, let me suggest to the Rev. Bishop to confine his efforts to the God-ordained work of teaching and uplifting the Chinese, and leave to others the work of creating and perpetuating racial distinction and prejudices, a spirit entirely opposed to the teaching of Christ and his disciples.

ANOTHER INTERESTED.

THE LATE YEUNG KU WAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"

Hongkong, 4th February.

SIR.—It appears that the numerous friends of the late Mr. Yeung Ku Wan are afraid to subscribe to the fund for the support of his family and children. May I suggest that money be sent you in a lump sum without name or address and under a *nom de plume* or even without a *nom de plume*? I hope this suggestion meets with your approval, as there are so many of the Canton Viceroy's secret spies and informers about that friends are afraid of their names being divulged.

Allow me to suggest that the Government keep strict watch on all suspicious Cantonese visitors, and that the reformers be afforded more adequate protection. What are the detectives paid for, I wonder, as they appear to be so very slow in tracing out the authors of the crime? We want another Quincy.

Five hundred dollars is too small a bait, and if the murderers of Mr. Yeung are to be traced the reward should be increased to ten

thousand dollars. In the absence of a big reward the mandarins can afford to purchase the silence of the assassin's accomplices.—With grateful thanks, yours, etc.,

X

SUPREME COURT.

Thursday, 7th February.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

F. EBRAHIM AND COMPANY AND THE CHI YUEN FIRM.

This is an appeal arising out of two summary suits—Chi Yuen V. F. Ebrahim and Co., and F. Ebrahim and Co. v. Chi Yuen—and was on behalf of Ebrahim and Co. against judgments delivered against them by the Acting Puisne Judge on the 15th January, on the ground that such judgments were erroneous, in point of law.

Mr. Sharp (instructed by Mr. Thomson, of Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) appeared for the appellants and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (instructed by Mr. Bonner) for the respondents.

Mr. Sharp said the appeal was on the ground that the judgments in these two suits, which ran together, were erroneous in point of fact as to the meaning of a contract dated 24th November, 1900. In accordance with the procedure suggested by the Chief Justice notice of motion had been given, and it had been agreed between the parties that the cases should be argued together.

The Chief Justice—That is that the whole matter be argued on the merits. That these will be only one argument.

Mr. Sharp said yes. Continuing, he said that the facts of the case were simple, and substantially there was no dispute between the facts with regard to them. Though a small amount of money was in question in this particular instance the case was one of very great importance commercially in the colony, inasmuch as contracts of this nature were habitually made, especially between European and Chinese firms, and the decision as to the meaning of these contracts was of vital importance to merchants of Hongkong who dealt with Chinese. The facts substantially agreed upon by the parties were that on the 23rd November, last year, Ebrahim and Company instructed a broker to purchase some peas from the Chi Yuen firm. On the following day the contract in question was entered into. On the 8th December, the fortnight appointed specifically in the contract within which the vessel containing the peas was to arrive expired. On the 12th December Ebrahim and Co. replaced the goods, the peas and ship not having arrived. On the 17th December Ebrahim and Company issued their writ and began their suit for the recovery of the loss they had sustained. He believed that as a matter of the fact the goods actually arrived the same day. The following day—the 18th December—was the date on which the ten days for delivery expired, according to the construction of the contract by Ebrahim and Company, but there was a curious difference between the two translations.

The Chief Justice said it was not satisfactory that the Court translator should certify two different translations as correct.

Some comment took place on this point. Mr. Sharp, continuing, said his submission was that the contract meant that delivery was to be made within ten days of arrival, which must not be later than the 8th December, that was 14 days after the signing of the contract.

Mr. Pollock, for the respondents, submitted that in this case the decision of the learned judge in the Court below was correct—that was to say that the real meaning of the contract was that the goods had to be ready for delivery within 24 days from the 24th November, which was the date the contract was entered into, and from the correspondence their Lordships would see that his clients had all along contended that he was quite within his time, that he was ready and willing to deliver the goods within the proper time. Further, it was quite clear that when the goods arrived on the 17th, or

within the 24 days from the signing of the contract, he notified the appellants of the fact, and that they refused to take delivery. He would submit that as a matter of fact the period of 24 days was not expired until the last moment of the 18th December. It was quite clear that the first day must be excluded and the last day included. His friend contended that the arrival of the goods within 14 days of the contract was an essential part of the contract, but he would submit that whichever of the two translations produced was accepted it was nowhere stipulated that if the goods did not arrive within a fortnight from the 24th November the plaintiff would be entitled in any way to treat it as a breach of contract entitling him to go into the market and purchase goods in place of the goods to arrive, and that if he suffered loss in so doing then sue for damages. He submitted that it was perfectly immaterial to the appellants whether the goods did arrive within 14 days or not, as long as he could count on getting the goods at a period of 14 plus ten days—that was 24 days.

Their Lordships reserved their decision.

FOOTBALL.

SHIELD COMPETITION.

Another tie in the Shield Competition was played at Happy Valley on Wednesday afternoon, when "H" Company of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers beat "A" Company of the same regiment by 3 goals to 1.

To-day a tie will be played off at 4 p.m. on the Club Ground, Happy Valley, between the 15th (Siege Train) Co., Southern Division, R.G.A., and the 25th Co. S.D.R.G.A. The following will then represent the former company:

Goal—Field; Backs—Moorhouse and O'Brien; half-backs—Harman, Nicol, and Riley; forwards—Phinn, Bond, Gettings, Cleeve and Reid.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

After a fortnight's abstention from racing, yacht owners were naturally eager for the 7th Club race, which was set down for decision on Tuesday, 3rd February, the Course being from the Police Pier round Channel Rocks, Kowloon Rocks, Cosmopolitan Dock Buoy, and North Fairway Buoy, all to port, distance 12 miles. The morning was bitterly cold with a fresh north wind blowing, and two of the yachts had to start very shorthanded, their owners being unable to find anyone not possessing a boat keen enough to face the cold. In the first class the usual eight started, *Active* now being an absentee in all the Club races. *Iris*, *Alannah*, and *Bonito* were hung up in the calm under the lee of the godowns close to the Police Pier when the gun went, while *Erica* and *Maid Marian* were lying down to a stiff breeze half way out, thus getting a good start, which *Erica* maintained to Channel Rock, round which *Doreen* was second and *Iris* third, closely followed by *Maid Marian*, who in turn was only a few lengths clear of *Alannah* and *Bonito*, the two latter rounding practically together. It was a short leg and a long one to Kowloon Rocks, and those who took their short leg near Kowloon Rock (as did *Erica* and *Alannah*) scored considerably. Kowloon Rock was rounded by *Erica*, *Doreen*, *Alannah*, *Bonito* and *Iris* in the order named, *Bonito* having just squeezed past *Iris* at the Rock only to be again caught off the wind. Repassing the Police Pier, *Erica* still held a long lead, while *Alannah*, keeping well out, got through without losing the wind, the remainder, who at this point were close up to her, foolishly keeping close in shore to cheat the tide, but losing more than they gained, as they lost the wind. The beat to the Cosmopolitan Rock Buoy began with *Erica* a long way ahead of *Alannah*, who was even farther off the *Doreen*, the latter being about fifty yards ahead of *Bonito*. It was now blowing quite as much as any one wanted with a whole sail, and very little change took place, all but the two leaders working up under Yaumati in hopes of a lift, but in this they were disappointed. *Erica*, on the other hand, threw away her lead by standing right across to Stonecutters, and the mark was rounded by *Alannah* about two minutes ahead of *Erica*, who was a long way in front of *Bonito*.

Doreen and *Iris* being the next two. A dead run to the Fairway Buoy left *Alannah* leading *Erica* by a minute and *Bonito* by seven or eight, *Doreen* within fifty yards of *Bonito* being hotly pursued by *Iris*. *Erica* went very badly on the reach home, keeping away up north, and *Iris*, who was badly interfered with by a launch towing a number of sampans, passed *Doreen*, who had also taken the northerly course. A fast sailed race ended as below:—

| Name. | Time. | Marks. | Total to date. |
|--------------------|---------|--------|----------------|
| <i>Alannah</i> | 3 13 30 | 10 | 30 |
| <i>Iris</i> | 3 17 4 | 4 | 15 |
| <i>Bonito</i> | 3 20 1 | 1 | 34 |
| <i>Iris</i> | 3 22 45 | 0 | 23 |
| <i>Doreen</i> | 3 25 2 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Maid Marian</i> | 3 26 59 | 0 | 3 |
| <i>Gloria</i> | 3 27 — | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Chanticleer</i> | 3 29 30 | 0 | 0 |

In the second class there was too much wind to suit the *Meteor*, and the little *Sayonara*, who likes a real stiff blow, won very easily on her time allowance. We heartily congratulate Captain Elderton on his first win. The finish in the second class was:—

| Name. | Time. | Marks. | Total to date. |
|-----------------|---------|--------|----------------|
| <i>Meteor</i> | 3 42 34 | 1 | 46 |
| <i>Payne</i> | 3 44 18 | 4 | 27 |
| <i>Sayonara</i> | 3 45 31 | 10 | 10 |
| <i>Dart</i> | 3 53 10 | 0 | 20 |
| <i>Ladybird</i> | 4 1 58 | 0 | 1 |
| <i>Sybil</i> | gave up | 0 | 1 |

ROYAL ARTILLERY CUP.

Course.—Starting from the Police Pier, Kowloon, round Meyer's East Buoy, Channel Rocks, Kowloon Rocks, South Rock Buoy in Hung-hom Bay, Meyer's East Buoy, Channel Rocks, Kowloon Rocks all to port, finishing across the starting line from east to west.

Start at 1 p.m. on Sunday, 10th inst.

HANDICAP.

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----------------|
| <i>Alannah</i> | ... | ... | allows |
| <i>Bonito</i> | ... | ... | 1 min. 15 secs. |
| <i>Iris</i> | ... | 2 | " 30 secs. |
| <i>Maid Marian</i> | ... | 4 | " 30 secs. |
| <i>Erica</i> | ... | 4 | " 30 secs. |
| <i>Meteor</i> | ... | 5 | " 30 secs. |
| <i>Chanticleer</i> | ... | 6 | " |
| <i>Doreen</i> | ... | 6 | " 30 secs. |
| <i>Active</i> | ... | 8 | " |
| <i>Dart</i> | ... | 16 | " |
| <i>Payne</i> | ... | 12 | " |
| <i>Ladybird</i> | ... | 13 | " 30 secs. |
| <i>Sybil</i> | ... | 15 | " |
| <i>Sayonara</i> | ... | 16 | " |
| <i>Thistle</i> | ... | 18 | " |

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

The third competition for the Field Battery "Class" Prizes took place at the Association Range, Kowloon, on the 3rd inst. The attendance was small, and the shooting not up to the standard owing to a very tricky wind, chiefly at the 600 yards range. The following are the best scores in each class:—

"A" CLASS.

| Names. | 200 yds. | 500 yds. | 00 Net |
|----------------|----------|----------|-------------|
| | yds. | yds. | yds. Total. |
| Gr. R. Lapsley | 27 | 30 | 26 83 |
| Lt. Mossop | 26 | 31 | 25 82 |
| | | | |

"B" CLASS.

| | | | |
|---------------|----|----|-------|
| Gr. Rattey | 24 | 29 | 25 78 |
| Gr. Donaldson | 31 | 26 | 21 78 |

"C" CLASS AND RECRUITS.

| | | | |
|---------------|----|----|-------|
| Gr. W. Duncan | 25 | 31 | 25 81 |
| Gr. Pestonjee | 20 | 12 | 16 48 |

George J. Rice, the editor of the *Daily Bulletin*, Manila, was arrested, on January 23rd, and confined at Anda Station awaiting deportation for publishing an article which is called by the authorities derogatory to the character of the Captain of the Port of Manila. He will go to the United States on the *Pennsylvania*. The order for his deportation states that investigation having been made apparent and the result communicated to the said Rice, he replied in an insolent and defiant manner that he would reiterate the charges when and where he saw fit. He is therefore regarded as a dangerous incendiary and a menace to the military situation and will be deported.

HONGKONG.

On the 3rd inst. H.M. gunboat *Peacock* left for Singapore, while on the 4th inst. H.M. cruiser *Dido* departed for Shanghai and the Portuguese cruiser *Adamastor* returned to Macao.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week included 434 non-Chinese and 161 Chinese to the former, and 120 non-Chinese and 2,018 Chinese to the latter institution.

A matshed caught fire at Hunghom at about two o'clock on the 3rd inst., and, spreading to two grass stacks, which were destroyed, caused damage amounting to between two and three hundred dollars.

By an oversight on the 1st inst. we omitted to state that in addition to the conferring of the D.S.O. on the five members of His Majesty's Navy on the 31st ult. for gallant conduct in North China, the same decoration was bestowed on Surgeon C. C. Macmillan (H.M.S. *Terrible*) for his services in South Africa.

On the 4th inst. Mr. G. J. W. King offered for public competition at the offices of the Public Works Department Island Lots Nos. 1,626 and 1,627, which are situated in Peak Road and contain 2,000 and 9,943 square feet respectively. The upset price was \$2,985, and the lots were purchased for \$20 above this sum by Mr. John Lemm.

About one o'clock on the 5th inst. a fire broke out in a medicine shop at 289, Queen's Road West. It spread with such rapidity that in fifteen minutes this shop and the one adjoining were entirely burnt out. The Fire Brigade, under Captain Superintendent May, with difficulty kept the fire confined to its original location, and were eventually successful. Nothing was saved from the two shops concerned, and the owner of No. 287 states that there was \$100 in money left on the premises. Both places were insured.

A Boxing Tournament will take place at the Theatre during the Race Week. Excellent patronage has been obtained, and the management will be in the hands of Mr. C. T. Robinson, light-weight amateur ex-champion and winner of two of the V.R.C's competitions. No pains are to be spared to make the tournament a success, and considerable improvements are to be introduced with regard to the ring and the seating accommodation. Boxers are requested to note that entries close on Saturday next, and that the prizes offered aggregate no less than \$1,500. A good entry should be secured.

Fires are of such frequent occurrence in the colony nowadays that it is a matter for surprise when a day passes without at least one having to be recorded. There were two on Thursday morning. The first was in a family house at 25, East Street, when damage to the extent of \$100 was done. The Fire Brigade under Captain Superintendent May were early in attendance, and happily succeeded in extinguishing the flames before they had made serious headway. Another fire broke out on the Kowloon side, but particulars were not to hand at the time of going to press.

On the 1st inst. the Portuguese cruiser *Adamastor* arrived from Macao, and at 3 p.m. there landed from her at Blake Pier H.E. the Governor of Macao, Senhor Conselheiro J. M. de Sonza Horta e Costa, accompanied by his two A.D.C's, Lieutenants Carvalhaes and Gouveia and the commander of the cruiser, Captain Andrea. They were met by Senhor A. G. Romano, Portuguese Consul-General, and, escorted by a guard of honour of the 22nd Bombay Infantry, proceeded at once to Government House, where they paid a visit of between half an hour and one hour. His Excellency, who is not only Governor of Macao but also Minister Plenipotentiary for Portugal to China, attended the Memorial Service at St. John's Cathedral on Saturday, the 2nd inst. when he was set in H.E. the Governor's pew. Senhor Horta e Costa and suite put up on the 1st at the Hongkong Hotel. His Excellency is far from well and therefore was obliged to decline the invitation to stay at Government House, as also with the Portuguese Consul. In spite of his illness he felt that he could not abstain from coming over to Hongkong for Saturday's ceremony, thus testifying strongly to the friendship existing between Portugal and Great Britain. H.E. and suite departed by the *Heungshan* on Monday.

The British battleship *Barfleur* left the harbour for Shanghai on the 1st inst.

We have received two sums of \$5 each from "Another Sympathiser" and "In Sympathy" for the widow and children of the murdered schoolmaster Yeung Ku Wan.

On the 5th inst. residents at the Peak had the unusual experience, of late years, of seeing icicles. One tennis-court, too, we are told, had an inch of ice on it in a place where there was some standing water on the previous night.

A marine of H.M.S. *Barfleur* was charged before Mr. Hazelton on the 2nd inst. with behaving in a disorderly manner in a shop at 7, Wellington Street, on the 1st instant, and assaulting two of the occupants. He was fined in all \$8, which sum he paid.

We call attention to the lecture under the auspices of the Navy League in the Chamber of Commerce Room, City Hall, next Tuesday evening. Capt. G. C. Anderson will speak on "Imperial British Interests in the Far East and the Needs of the Navy." Ladies and members of the general public are invited to be present.

At the conclusion of the usual Juma prayer at the Mosque on the 1st inst., Mr. A. Fukeera, President of the Jamat-ul-Islam, delivered a very impressive address in tribute to the memory of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, after which the congregation offered prayers for the long life and prosperous reign of H.M. King Edward VII.

At the Theatre Royal on Thursday night a boxing show came off under the presidency of Mr. J. H. Downs, who acted as referee in the three main contests, while Mr. Robert Love, of Hartnett's, was the official time-keeper. The leading events resulted as follows:—Piggott (U.S.S. *Albany*) beat Morgan (H.M.S. *Brisk*); Howe (U.S.S. *Albany*) beat Mills (H.M.S. *Centurion*); Con Sheehan (H.M. Naval Yard) beat Mike Collins (San Francisco).

Thursday was the wedding day of H.M. the Queen of Holland and Duke Henry of Mecklenburg Schwerin. In the morning the Dutch residents in the Colony called on their Consul, Mr. F. J. Haver Droeze, who organised a dinner party in honour of the wedding, and the assembled Dutchmen heartily drank the health of their young Queen. At tiffin some prominent members of the Dutch Colony met in the Hongkong Hotel, where patriotic speeches were delivered on the Royal couple.

Mr. R. Cook, before commencing the ordinary business at the annual meeting of the Engineers Institute on Thursday, the 31st ult., observed—The sadness and sorrow thrown over the nitermo limits of the British Empire by the death of our beloved Queen, has fallen with all its intensity upon us here in this city that bears her cherished name, and we, assembled here tonight as members of this Institution, cannot proceed with the business before us without first giving expression to our humble, heartfelt sorrow and sympathy with His Majesty the King, his Queen Consort and the other members of the Royal Family. During the glorious and progressive reign of her late Majesty Queen Victoria, the greatest possible encouragement was given to arts, sciences and education in all their branches. Inventions, manufacturing and engineering all prospered and advanced beyond the most sanguine anticipations. Under her gracious encouragement, our great empire has been so enlarged, and has gone forward with so rapid strides as to have awakened at once the wonder and admiration of the rest of the civilized world. Such advance has been mainly influenced by the wise, far-seeing and peace-loving policy so successfully pursued by her late Majesty. Ever ready to sympathize with the suffering or troubled, her goodness of heart not only endeared her to her own subjects, but won for her the respect of every nation on Earth. May her Royal son, now our King Edward VII, profit by the splendid and glorious example of his august mother: may he be blessed with long life, health and happiness, and during his reign may our Empire enjoy peace and prosperity; may he be given a large portion of wisdom, justice and mercy to conduct the affairs of his exalted and important position, so that his subjects may sing "God save the King" with loving and heartfelt prayers, and rejoice thankfully that we have a just and wise Monarch to rule over us.

The U.S. flagship *Brooklyn* arrived on the 3rd inst. from Manila, and the French light-draught gunboat *Avalanche* from Canton.

There were no cases of communicable disease notified occurring in the Colony during last week.

The Police regulations for the approaching Chinese New Year and the Race Meeting on the 26th, 27th, and 28th instant, are published in the *Gazette*.

The entries for the Hongkong Jockey Club's Meeting on the 26th, 27th, and 28th instant, are now published. The following are the numbers entered for each race:—First day, Wongneichong Stakes—19, Victoria Stakes—21, Maiden Stakes (Australians)—18, Valley Stakes (Australians)—22, Foochow Cup—7, Hongkong Derby (Australians)—22, Lusitano Cup—21, Compradores' Cup (Australians)—21, Hongkong Cup—19, Encouragement Stakes (Australians)—22; Second Day, Flyaway Stakes—21, Great Southern Handicap—27, Garrison Cup (Australians)—20, German Cup (Australians)—17, Navy Cup—25, Exchange Plate—24, Jockey Club (Australians)—22, Tai Yeuk Fong Cup (Australians)—18, Professional Cup—16, Gymkhana Stakes (Australians)—23; Third Day, Chinese Club Cup (Australians)—24, Grand Stand Stakes—27, Challenge Cup—35, Ladies' Purse (Australians)—23, "Blake" Challenge Cup (Australians)—19, Parsee Cup—27, Waler Champion Stakes (Australians)—all winners, Consolation Stakes—30, Champion Stakes—all winners, Nil Desperandum Stakes (Australians)—24. Where it is not otherwise specified the races are limited to China ponies.

The following lieutenants have been promoted to be commanders, in recognition of their services with the Naval forces in China:—To date 1st January: George Holmes Borrett and John Frederick Ernest Green.

MISCELLANEOUS.

General Tung Fuhsiang is said still to have a body of 10,000 veterans at his beck and call in Kansu, in regard to whom the Board of Revenue has just appropriated the sum of Tls. 1,045,700 odd for their pay during the present year.

The *Japan Herald* records that on the night of the 23rd ult. at the General Hospital Yokohama, Charles Emil Leopold breathed his last. He only a few months ago emerged from the Hongkong prison, where he had expiated the sentence passed upon him by H.B.M.'s Court for Kanagawa for obtaining large sums of money under false pretences. He was only 39 years old.

Mr. J. H. Longford, H.B.M. Consul at Nagasaki, has issued a circular informing the heads of the various Government offices that Mr. J. T. Wawn, of the British Consulate of Kobe, has been appointed First Assistant and Pro-Consul at Nagasaki, in place of Mr. J. B. Rentiers, who has been transferred to the British Legation at Tokyo. Mr. Rentiers has left to take up his duties in the capital.

In his report on the trade of Szemao in 1899 Mr Acting-Consul Litton records the fact that in many of the Shan States the ancient practice of using lumps of salt for currency still obtains. Two mules out of every three seen at Szemao are laden with salt, the product of brine-wells near Puerh, which is distributed all over the Shan States. It is often used by weight for money.

A telegram to the N.C. *Daily News*, dated Tientsin, 30th January, says:—"News of a terrible tragedy is telegraphed from Peking. The husband and wife are dead and a British officer mortally wounded, all by the former, through jealousy." A later telegram states that a Mr. Lindberg shot his wife and himself dead and wounded Lieut. Denning seriously, but the last-named was still alive.

All of us here know how thoroughly Admiral Seymour was justified in his request for a brigade of British troops at Shanghai last summer, says the N.C. *Daily News*. Well-informed Chinese believe that it is only the continued presence of the foreign force here that keeps Liu Kung-ji at Nanking. The Empress Dowager would have superseded him by one of her Manchu favourites before this, but that she fears that his removal would be the signal for the dispatch of the foreign troops now at Shanghai to Hankow, en route for Hsian.

According to a correspondent of the N.C. *Daily News*, several of the French Fathers were at Laokai on the frontiers waiting to re-enter Yunnan, but the officials refuse so far to give the required permission. The Customs officials expressed a desire to return to Mengtze, but the Taotai there advised them to wait until affairs in the North were settled. This same official seems to have spoken rather strongly to the French Consul, on hearing that he intended to reoccupy the Consulate at Mengtze. The French problem in the south of Yunnan is a thorny one, continues the correspondent, which will tax the utmost efforts of officials on both sides to satisfactorily settle. While sincerely hoping that there will be no more bombastic M. François to stir up justifiable ferment among the people, it is absolutely necessary that the officials and people of Yunnan be made to understand once for all that treaties with foreign countries must be respected.

It is stated, says the N.C. *Daily News*, that the troops formerly under General Tung Fuhsiang at Peking, some 10,000 in number, who were afterwards taken away from him at Hsian, in November last, at the time the said General was ordered to go to Kansu, are to be placed under Viceroy Wei Kuangtiao, transferred at the time from the Shen-Kan to the Yunnan and Kweichau provinces. As Viceroy Wei has not gone south as at first intended, the placing of these extra troops under him means that his new duties will be to serve as a guard to the Refugee Court in its march to whatever city may be chosen as the future capital of the Manchu-dynasty. It is freely reported in Hsian that the idea of the Empress Dowager and her Grand Councillor, Lu Ch'uan-lin, in sending for General Feng Tze-t'sui and his 30,000 troops so far south as Kwangtung province, is due to their desire to pit these veterans of Feng Tze-t'sui against the Allied troops, should peace negotiations be broken off, as is fully expected amongst the Conservatives at Court.

On 12th January, the *P. and T. Times* records, a band of mounted Manchurian robbers surrounded a foraging party of the Jodhpore lancers and some Japanese infantry five miles from Shanhaikwan. One trooper escaped with the news, and Jodhpore officers hastened out with twenty men and arrived in the nick of time. In one house three men had been hemmed in, one shot dead, the house being afterwards fired, and the two remaining troopers were all but suffocated. Farther on three troopers were found defending three Indian coolies with only two or three cartridges remaining. Five Japanese were killed and nine of the Jodhpore mules. After a stern chase seven Chinese were killed, but unfortunately a second trooper was shot and one horse killed and a pony wounded. The rest escaped into a large village, from which such a hot fire was opened that the small force had to retire. The next day a force of 100 cavalry and 400 infantry and a company of Japanese went out, but the big village was deserted and the band was probably in safety in the hills. The Maharajah is to be congratulated on the prompt action of the relief party.

COMMERCIAL.

HONGKONG, 8th February.—Still no supplies have come forward. No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 8th February.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$7.20 to \$8.25 per lb.
do. 2, White.....7.25 to 7.30 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ... 5.35 to 5.40 "
do. 2, Brown ... 5.25 to 5.30 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....8.15 to 8.20 "
do. 1, White.....7.20 to 7.25 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown ... 5.30 to 5.35 "
do. 2, Brown ... 5.20 to 5.25 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....12.20 to 12.25 "
Shekloong11.25 to 11.50 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per Imperial German Mail *Preussen*, sailed on the 23rd January. For Odessa:—92 bales canes. For Smyrna:—10 boxes essential oil

For Genoa:—205 bales waste silk, 50 bales raw silk. For Trieste:—175 bales rattan shaving, 10 boxes essential oil. For Trieste/Hamburg:—200 bales broken cassia. For Venice:—125 bales broken cassia. For Antwerp:—150 boxes tea, 70 half-chests tea, 47 rolls matting, 16 bales feathers, 15 boxes Chinaware, 10 boxes palm-fans, 6 cases blackwoodware. For Antwerp/Hamburg:—50 cases bristles. For Amsterdam:—25 cases feastick, 2 cases lanterns. For Rotterdam:—3 cases cigars. For London:—90 boxes essential oil, 70 boxes bristles, 10 boxes vermillion, 5 boxes Chinaware. For St. Petersburg:—5 cases sundries. For Bremen:—232 rolls matting, 1 case books. For Bremen/Hamburg:—40 cases Chinaware. For Hamburg:—167 bales feathers, 166 bales canes, 11 boxes human hair, 9 boxes Chinapaper. For Hamburg/London:—30 boxes bristles.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 8th February:—There is no difference in the position of the market as when last reported. Quotations are:—

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Saigon, Ordinary..... | \$2.85 to 2.90 |
| " Round, Good quality | 3.05 to 3.10 |
| " Long | 3.15 to 3.20 |
| Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 | 2.95 to 3.00 |
| " Garden, " No. 1 | 3.25 to 3.30 |
| " White | 3.75 to 3.80 |
| " Fine Cargo | 4.05 to 4.10 |

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 8th February.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn: 1,650 bales No. 10 at \$84.50 to \$92, 650 bales No. 12 at \$89 to \$94.50, 350 bales No. 16 at \$93 to \$99, 1,200 bales No. 20 at \$99.50 to \$103. Long Ells: 125 pieces 8 lbs. purple green Stag at \$7.25, 125 pieces scarlet at \$6.90, 125 pieces purple green Stag at \$7.25. Mexicans: 300 pieces 36 Crown at \$2.92, 1,500 pieces 36 Stag Hunter C.C. at \$3.40. Raw Cotton: 50 bales Ningpoo at \$24.50
COTTON YARN—

| |
|---|
| per bale |
| Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....\$79.00 to \$112.00 |
| English—Nos. 16 to 24.....114.00 to 120.00 |
| " 22 to 24.....120.00 to 128.00 |
| " 28 to 32.....136.00 to 142.00 |
| " 38 to 42.....155.00 to 170.00 |

COTTON PIECE GOODS

| |
|---|
| per piece |
| Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. 2.15 to 2.25 |
| 7 lbs. 2.40 to 2.55 |
| 8.4 lbs. 2.90 to 3.60 |
| 9 to 10 lbs. 3.70 to 4.50 |
| White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.60 to 2.80 |
| 58 to 60 " 3.25 to 4.05 |
| 64 to 66 " 4.30 to 5.55 |
| Fine 5.20 to 7.90 |
| Book-folds. 4.40 to 6.30 |
| Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....0.78 to 1.60 |
| T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 1.75 to 1.90 |
| 7 lbs. (32 "), " 2.00 to 2.25 |
| 6 lbs. (32 "), Mexs. 1.95 to 2.20 |
| 7 lbs. (32 "), " 2.85 to 3.70 |
| 8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) 2.90 to 3.60 |
| Drills, English—40yds., 14 to 16 lbs. 4.25 to 7.10 |

FANCY COTTONS

| |
|--|
| Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 8 lbs. 1.55 to 5.00 |
| Brocades—Dyed — to — |
| per yard |
| Chintzes—Assorted 0.08 to 0.17 |
| Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.22 to 0.60 |
| Velvetcens—18 in. 0.20 to 0.22 |

per dozen

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.36 to 2.50

WOOLENS

| |
|--|
| per yard |
| Spanish Stripes—Sundry chps. 0.80 to 1.50 |
| Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.25 to 2.50 |

per piece

| |
|--------------------------------------|
| Long Ells—Scarlet..... 6.40 to 10.00 |
| Assorted..... 6.50 to 10.10 |

Camlets—Assorted.....12.50 to 32.00

Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches 8.00 to 20.00

Assorted 8.00 to 20.00

Orleans—Plain 8.50 to 10.00

| |
|--|
| per pair |
| Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. 4.00 to 18.00 |

METALS

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|-------------------------------|
| per picul |
| Iron—Nail Rod 4.15 to — |

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| Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.) 4.15 to — |
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| Swedish Bar 7.50 to — |
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|---------------------------------|
| Small Round Rod 4.50 to — |
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| Hoop 1 to 11/2 in. 4.75 to — |
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| Wire 15/25 8.80 to — |
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| Old Wire Rope 2.50 to — |
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| Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop 10.40 to — |
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|-----------------------------|
| Australian 10.00 to — |
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|---------------------|-----------|--------|------------------|---|
| Yellow M'tal—Muntz. | 14/20 oz. | 41.00 | to | — |
| Vivian's. | 14/20 oz. | 40.25 | to | — |
| Elliot's. | 14/20 oz. | 40.25 | to | — |
| New Chops. | 14/20 oz. | — | to | — |
| Composition Nails | — | 63.00 | to | — |
| Japan Copper, Slabs | — | 43.00 | to | — |
| Tin | — | 61.00 | to | — |
| Tin-Plates | — | 6.25 | per box. | — |
| Steel | 1/2 to 1 | 5.50 | per cwt. case | — |
| SUNDRIES— | — | — | per picul | — |
| Quicksilver | — | 151.00 | per box | — |
| Window Glass | — | 5.75 | per 10-gal. case | — |
| Kerosene Oil | — | 2.40 | to | — |

VERNON & SMYTH'S SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 8th February.—A fair business has been done during the week, and rates have ruled steady generally, but weak in a few cases.

BANKS—Hongkong and Shanghai. In the early part of the week a few shares were taken off the market at 350 per cent for cash and 360 for March. Later, however, shares changed hands at 348 cash and 358 for March; market closes at 351 per cent. premium. Nationals remain unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders and Cantons have been on offer at quotations in small lots. Unions continue in small demand at \$245 without sales. North Chinas are in the market at \$180. Yangtzes and Straits without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs continue on offer at \$315 without inducing business. Chinas have changed hands at \$82 and \$83 cash and at \$84 for April.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos have ruled steady with small sales at 36 cum and \$34, \$35, and \$35 $\frac{1}{4}$ ex div., closing steady at the last rate. Indo Chinas have found buyers chiefly in the North at \$110, \$111, \$111 $\frac{1}{4}$, \$112, \$113 and \$114 for cash, and at equivalent rates forward as far as June. Market closes at \$114. Douglasses continue on offer without sales. China Manilas and China Mutuals unchanged and without business. Star Ferries are enquired for, and Shell Transports have changed hands at quotations.

REFINERIES.—Chin Sugars have been placed at the advanced rate of \$126, and close steady at that rate. Luzons continue on offer at \$40 with no business.

MINING.—The market under this heading has been quiet, and with the exception of small sales of Punjoms at \$3.60, and Oliver "B's" at \$1.15 and \$1.25, there is no business to report.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have further improved to 650 per cent prem. cash, after small sales at 640 and 645 per cent. prem. A fair business has been done forward at equivalent rates, chiefly at 665 for March and 680 for May; market closes quiet at 650 with sellers. Kowloon Wharves were in some demand at \$91 and have been placed at \$93, but there are not many shares available and only small sales have resulted from the demand at the close; buyers rule the market. Wanchais remain unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have ruled quieter with sellers at \$198 and little or no business for cash, but some small lots have changed hands forward at an equivalent of \$199 cash. Hotels continue quiet and more or less neglected; small sales for March at \$126 are reported. West Points have been placed and are enquired for at \$50. Humphreys have found buyers at \$13.

COTTONS.—No business to report. Northern rates are taken from the latest Shanghai circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Cements have changed hands at \$19 $\frac{1}{2}$, Watsons at \$16, Electrics at \$12 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, Watkins at \$12 $\frac{1}{2}$, and China Provident's at \$9 $\frac{1}{2}$. Fenwicks and Ices are on offer at quotations.

MEMOS.—Ordinary Yearly Meeting of Hongkong Ice Co. on 11th instant. Transfer Books closed. Ordinary half yearly meeting Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on 16th instant. Transfer books closed. Ordinary yearly meeting Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. on 25th instant. Transfer books close on 14th. Extraordinary General Meeting Jelebu Mining, etc., Co. at Singapore on 9th instant

for the purpose of increasing the capital of the Company. General Meeting Hongkong High-Level Tramway Co. on 18th instant. Ordinary Annual Meeting Hongkong Fire Insurance Co. on 6th March. Transfer Books close on 20th inst.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

| COMPANY. | PAID UP. | QUOTATIONS. |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Banks— | | |
| Hongkong & Sh'hai... | \$125 | [\$563 $\frac{1}{4}$, buyers 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ p. ct. prem. = London, £61. |
| China & Japan, ordy. Do, deferred | £24 | £1. |
| Natl. Bank of China | £21 | £5 5s. |
| A. Shares | £8 | \$27, buyers |
| B. Shares | £8 | \$27, buyers |
| Foun. Shares | £1 | \$20. |
| Bell's Asbestos E. A... | £1 | \$1, buyers |
| Campbell, Moore & Co. | £10 | \$20. |
| China Prov. L. & M... | £10 | \$34, sellers |
| China Sugar | \$100 | \$126, sales |
| Cotton Mills— | | |
| Ewo | Tls. 100 | Tls. 50. |
| International | Tls. 100 | Tls. 45. |
| Laou Kung Mow | Tls. 100 | Tls. 60. |
| Soycheo | Tls. 500 | Tls. 325, buyers |
| Yahloong | Tls. 100 | Tls. 50. |
| Hongkong | \$100 | \$14, sellers |
| Dairy Farm | 86 | \$7. |
| Fenwick & Co., Geo... | £25 | \$59, sellers |
| Green Island Cement... | \$10 | \$19 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers |
| H. & C. Bakery | £50 | \$55, sales |
| Hongkong & C. Gas | £10 | \$118, buyers |
| Hongkong Electric | £10 | \$12 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers |
| H. H. L. Tramways | \$100 | \$64, buyers |
| Hk. Steam Water-boat Co., Ld. | £5 | £5. |
| Hongkong Hotel | \$50 | \$124, sellers |
| Hongkong Ice | £25 | \$178, sellers |
| H. & K. Wharf & G... | £50 | \$93. |
| Hongkong Rope | £50 | \$170, sellers |
| H. & W. Dock | \$125 | 650 p. ct. prem. = [\$987 $\frac{1}{4}$, buyers |
| Insurance— | | |
| Canton | £50 | \$150, sellers |
| China Fire | £20 | \$84. |
| China Traders' | £25 | \$56, sellers |
| Hongkong Fire | £50 | \$315, sellers |
| North-China | £225 | Tls. 180, sellers |
| Straits | £20 | \$1. |
| Union | £50 | \$245, buyers |
| Yangtze | £60 | \$115. |
| Land and Building— | | |
| Hongkong Land Inv. | \$100 | \$198, sellers |
| Humphreys Estate | £10 | \$13, sellers |
| Kowloon Land & B. | £30 | \$27, buyers, ex div. |
| West Point Building | £50 | \$50, sales |
| Luzon Sugar | \$100 | \$40, sellers |
| Mining— | | |
| Charbonnages | Fcs. 250 | \$320, sellers |
| Gt. Estn. & C'donian | £3 | 5 cents |
| Do. Preference | £1 | 40 cents |
| Jelebu | £5 | £6, sellers |
| Queen's Mines Ld... | 25c. | 7 cents, sellers |
| Olivers Mines, A... | £5 | \$2.30, sales |
| Do. B... | £4 | \$25, sales |
| Punjom | £8 | \$3.6, buyers |
| Do. Preference | £1 | \$1.20. |
| Raubs | 18 | \$43, sellers |
| New Amoy Dock | £61 | \$22, buyers |
| Oriente Hotel Co., Ld. | £50 | \$80, sellers |
| Steamship Coys.— | | |
| China and Manila | £50 | \$72, sellers |
| China Mutual Pref. | £20 | £41, sellers |
| China Ordinary | £10 | £12, buyers |
| Do. | £5 | £7, buyers |
| Douglas Steamship | £50 | \$46, sales & sellers |
| H. Canton and M... | £15 | £35, ex div. |
| Indo-China S. N... | £10 | \$114, buyers |
| Shell Transport and Trading Co.... | £1 | £3. 4s. |
| Star Ferry | £10 | £20, sales |
| Tebrau Planting Co... | £5 | £3, sellers |
| United Asbestos | £4 | £7 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers |
| D. | £10 | £20. |
| Wanchai Warehouse | £37 $\frac{1}{2}$ | £63, buyers |
| Watkins, Ld. | £10 | £124, sellers |
| Watson & Co., A. S... | £10 | £16, sales |
| Universal Trading Co., Ld. | £5 | £5 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers |
| The China Light & Power Co., Ld. ... | £20 | |
| Cigar Companies— | | |
| Alhambra, Limited. | \$500 | \$1,500, buyers |
| La Commercial, Ld. | \$500 | \$1,000. |
| Hensiana, Limited... | \$100 | \$105, sellers |
| La Favorita, Ld. ... | \$500 | \$700, sellers |

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

COALS.

HONGKONG, 8th February.—Small sales of Japanese at quotations:—

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Cardiff | \$29.00 | sellers ex ship |
| Australian | \$14.00 to \$14.50 | ex godown, nominal |
| Yubari Lump | \$11.00 | ex godown, nominal |
| Miiki Lump | \$10. | |
| Moji Lump | \$7.00 to \$9.50 | ex ship, steady |
| Hongay double | 10.50 | ex godown |
| screened | | |
| Hongay Lump | 8.50 | ex ship |
| Hongay Dust | 5.50 | " nominal |
| Briquettes | 14.50 | ex godown |

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 8th February.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Telegraphic Transfer | 1/11 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight | 2/0 |
| Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight | 2/0 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Credits, at 4 months' sight | 2/0 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight | 2/0 $\frac{1}{4}$ |

ON PARIS.—

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Bank Bills, on demand | 2.51 |
| Credits, 4 months' sight | 2.56 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

ON GERMANY.—

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| On demand | 2.04 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
|-----------|--------------------|

ON NEW YORK.—

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Bank Bills, on demand | 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Credits, 60 days' sight | 49 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

ON BOMBAY.—

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Telegraphic Transfer | 149 |
| Bank, on demand | 149 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

ON CALCUTTA.—

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Telegraphic Transfer | 149 |
| Bank, on demand | 149 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

ON SHANGHAI.—

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Bank, at sight | 72 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Private, 30 days' sight | 73 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

ON YOKOHAMA.—

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| On demand | 13 p. c. pm |
|-----------|-------------|

ON MANILA.—

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| On demand | 2 p. c. pm |
|-----------|------------|

ON SINGAPORE.—

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| On demand | 1 p. c. pm |
|-----------|------------|

ON BATAVIA.—

| | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| On demand | 119 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
|-----------|-------------------|

ON HAIPHONG.—

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| On demand | 2 p. c. pm |
|-----------|------------|

ON SAIGON.—

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| On demand | 13 p. c. pm |
|-----------|-------------|

ON BANGKOK.—

| | |
|-----------|----|
| On demand | 60 |
|-----------|----|

SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate

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| ... 9.97 |
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GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael

